

Technology, Trade Liberalization, Provisional Advantage and Potentiality of Indian Handloom Sector: A Research during Reform Period

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Abstract—Traditionally Handloom sector was the backbone of Indian industry and the essence of Indian civilization and culture. After the evaluation of industrialization the handloom industry is facing stiff competition with power loom and consistently upgrading technology and other industries, nevertheless, the handloom industry has the significant contribution in the India's international as well as intra-national trade. With this background, the present paper will examine the comparative advantage of Indian handloom industry with respect to global economy by applying the Ballasa (1965) index of Revealed Comparative Advantage (RCA) and also examine the export competitiveness by using Porter Export competitiveness model, using highly disaggregated data from 2004 - 2013 by using WITS (World Integrated Trade Solution) WTO data set and the export performance of Indian handloom products during 2013-18 from the handloom export promotion council data set. Under the International classification of commodities at six-digit level, there are 21 groups are classified as the handloom products. This paper has calculated and analyzed the Revealed Comparative Advantage (RCA) of all handloom commodities at disaggregate level. Result shows that India has high revealed comparative advantage in almost all the handloom products, it's in total 22 hand product India has high comparative advantage in 15 products and having a slight disadvantage in only 6 handloom products in studied and analyzed period of subsequent year 2004-2013. However, the export competitiveness indices show also the export advantage edge in handloom products. It shows that there is high potentiality of growth in handloom industry but lagging under capacity it lies behind it. This paper suggests government initiatives for the realization of handloom sector at its optimum level.

Keywords: Handloom Trade, WTO, Revealed Comparative Advantage, Export Competitiveness

I. INTRODUCTION

The Indian handloom industry is an indispensable abstract of Indian culture and civilization. Right from the historical evidence of Indus valley civilization, where the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) found the footprint of handloom and its allies products, to the British colonial period, there are many evidences of the cultural, political and economic contribution of handloom sector.

This research paper is carried out to explore the condition of handloom sector in the light of globalization. However, in the much broader term, the Indian industry including handloom has been globalized in the last more than 350 years. The global world now is entirely different from that of

seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Although the labor is still not more mobile compare to that time period, capital is now more and most mobile than before due to technological and modern nation, states and uniform world trading patterns, that is why the industry is more competitive and disperses now. This study will explore the present condition of handloom industry in only the post reform period i.e. 1991 (in Indian context major economic policies have been liberalized & globalize after that; trade, economic, banking sector reform and so on many mores, that is why it became the landmark and shifting of protective to complete open of Indian economic history) with special reference of the last one decade from 2004-2013 and the export performance of India during 2013-18.

The de-industrialization of Indian artisan in the British colonial period of the handloom and textile industry has been largely affected the heritage arts & craftsmanship and that could be one of the explanation of persistent Indian suffering industry, mass poverty and unemployment. Research shows that the handloom industry is still suffering from the huge deficit and losses, and handloom weavers are having pitiable condition of life not having resources at the basic standard survival level. Handloom weavers have to face strong competition from the power loom industry and global efficient production from china and India itself where the productivity is very high. Evidences show that there are labour shift from the handloom industry to the power-loom industry where the labour gets the wages at the high labour hour. The low incomes deteriorate the health which further reduces the productivity of the labour and all the profits comes out of that goes to the structure concentrated capitalist individual. The Power loom industry also gets the subsidy, grants, training, technology, and markets from the government (Textile policy 1985) and handloom industry doesn't have but to compete them without any such facilities at large. The governmental policies and programmes don't support the long heritage and sustainability of handloom instead the high focus and support has been continuously given to the power loom sector. Textile policy 1985 itself is big responsible for the low performance of handloom industry and miserable condition of the handloom workers in India (Jain, 1985)

Under the free- trade advocacy of international trade, a country should specialize on the production of that

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commodities in which it has the comparative advantage to others. The comparative advantage of any country can be defined either there are factor abundance of that commodities or it has geographical or political environment to support it or having high factor based specialty rises to comparative advantages. For example, labour surplus or abundance country should specialize on and export the labor-intensive commodities and import the capital intensive capital goods and commodities whereas capital sufficient or abundance country should specialize on and export to the capital intensive commodities or goods and import labour intensive commodities or goods. However, there are certain cases like factor reversal and demand reversal of a specific commodities then the country may not have the comparative advantage in producing any such specific commodity.

India is one biggest labour concentrated country, still in 2019 mostly more than 50% engaged in agriculture sector contributing about merely the 12% GDP, where handloom products are too the labour-intensive producing sector as the technological up gradation of the concerned handloom sector with contemporary world has not been practiced at cutting floor level of production. This Research paper try to explore and calculate, analyze its comparative advantage in the production of handloom products categorized under the Harmonized System i.e, HS - Classification of commodities of 6-Digit level of disaggregation. This paper also try to explore the current export performances and the comparative advantage of India in handloom products at the disaggregate level.

Even though the handloom industry is high labour concentrated intensive industry, the evidence shows that there are high replacement rate between capital and labour. There is possibility that handloom industry will, be more prone to technical advancement which will certainly increase the handloom efficient productivity if the the world standard technology be applied to the high potential handloom industry. This paper will too explore the comparative advantage process of India over a period of time and export competitiveness of India handloom industry in that contemporary times.

The most important of the research of this paper is the objective of the paper is to calculate and analyze the India's comparative advantage and the export competitiveness and export performances of handloom products, by using the Ballasa revealed comparative advantage model and Porters diamond model of export competitiveness which is long relied working feasible model. The data is extracted from the WITS WTO (UNCOMTRADE) data set for the period of 2004-2013 and export performance of 2013-2018 data from the Handloom export promotion council of India (HEPCI). There are 21 products under 6-digit HS-classification which comes under the handloom products. It also studies the others associating various factors critically to evaluate the various policies and programs of government for the advancement and up gradation and improvement in the socioeconomic conditions in life of handloom weavers of handloom sector over all.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The study of ICRIER (2002) has examined India's competitive performance in the US and EU markets for MFA

(ATC) product like Indian textile and clothing sectors focus mainly on the fabrics, handloom, textiles and light apparel whose entire value chain from the fiber to garment and retail with the use of sales and distribution. The research methodology which has been used for the study is demand side of Indian textile and clothing exports, and the supply-side factors of export which determine and play the important role in the competitiveness has also been used the role of discriminatory rules of origin in Local and Regional Trading Arrangements [RTAs], tariff peaks and environmental stakes and labour standards- as market access issues relevant to the textile and clothing exporting countries. To examine the supply-side factors of export competitiveness, a primary interview was conducted with few exporters to chalk-out factors affecting the export competitiveness. The studies conclude that Indian exports to the European Union and the United State are on the whole, export competitive. Sector-wise studies of the export of Indian handloom, textile and clothing sectors to United States and & European Union inferences that in apparel exports, quota system has indeed been a obstacle and constraint for most of cotton apparels and made-ups that India exported to these two markets for long times. However, the same is not true about Indian yarn/fabric exports. Quotas seem to have protected the export of Indian yarn/ fabric to these two markets. Indian exports of made-ups have been another area where quotas have been binding its potentiality, and not protecting the Indian exports to US & EU markets. Indian textile and clothing sectors have a tremendous potential, but due to support finance, technology and policy paralysis only a portion of which has been realized.

This paper has critically studied and evaluated the 1985 textile policy in the light of handloom and power-loom sector separately to assess the policy factors efficiency and substances. The 1985 textile policy has stand responsible for the low trap performance of handloom sector and biases towards the cotton mills, automated and power-loom sector. The textile policy assumption which expects handlooms to depend on their own without the state supports and facilities and assured delivery based governmental regulations. On another side the power mills and power-looms cannot move without government generous aid and protection and promotion, the question here is not to support to automated sector don't lies but neglecting the sustainable and feasible potentiality of handloom sectors is most concerned. Also all capacity restrictions have been withdrawn on mills and power-looms and all conceivable financial, fiscal and other assistance has been offered to enable them to occupy the market rapidly, leaving little space for the handlooms without such assistance and supports. Although 'the consumer choices and preference' and 'cheaper, healthier, skin friendly' cloth are cited as the guiding principles for the new policy, the mills will be protected against imported cloth that lows competition and prices should fall the lower.

In any such case, the product reservation and the so-called 'package' of development assistance offered to sectors, which are hollow for long is basically an anti-employment,

anti-handloom and anti-khadi shift in policy as it needs the broad open supports. The most significant departure of the new textile policy has made from the past is in its resolve to liberate the making of cloth from the burden of employment i.e. cloth output must expand even at the cost of substantial shrinking of employment. It has been assumed that enhanced availability of cloth is all that is required for its enhanced consumption level of emerging populations. The conditions of Handloom weavers of Bargarh district of Odisha since long times of hundreds of years has been not competed the others profession in that contemporary times so the peoples has shifted to other area and works. The only protection for the handloom industry that survives the new textile policy is 'product reservation' which has been on paper as a farce for the last three decades. A Commerce Ministry study group on 'Reservation of Handlooms' had reported in September 1981 that it "found total apathy and negligence as far as enforcement is concerned" as not a single handloom or power loom weaver was aware of the existence of the scheme of product reservation operational.

This paper has studied and analyzed the performance the Indian Clothing Export Sector under the preview of Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), under which the world trade in textiles and clothing has become free without the restriction of quotas as a result in the modern world trade organizational regime, The Indian clothing exporters are likely to face tough competition in the international market in the new WTO regime as the supports in production and efficiency of labour skills of others developed country is far ahead. Intense price competition in the post-MFA phase-out period has put immense pressure on the suppliers in all the countries to become internationally competitive due to non-price factors such as market proximity and preferential tariffs practices. This paper examines some of the general implications of MFA phase-out and undertakes an analysis of competitiveness of Indian clothing export sector with the help of Porter's Diamond Determinants of National Advantage, namely, 'Productions Factor Conditions', 'Market Demand Conditions', 'Related and Supporting Industries' and 'Local Rivalry' and the result inferences that the investment in manufacturing facilities, improvement in productivity levels with the help of benchmarking techniques and modernization will be the key factors for success in the post- MFA scenario. Cost of various inputs need to be decrease and large investment in technology up gradation is required to have a quality and price competitive supply base within India and world. Industry and government must work together in the interest of improving the export share of clothing industry. Domestic market base needs to must be explored so that foreign suppliers will not flood the market with their competitive priced products as the dumping in short and capturing the market for long and longer. Factors like vertical and horizontal integration, effective delivery mechanism, the quality, competitive pricing and cluster development will help in gaining sustainable competitive advantage in realizing the potentiality of the sectors. Only those exporters are likely to be successful who move towards competitive advantage at a faster pace of world market.

Balasubramanyam&Yingqi (2005) finds that India having the lower wages in textile and handlooms from china though too China is having very high share in trade to US, EU

&others countries is simply due to their state structured harnessing of potentiality of handloom sector even at the higher factors wages, where as the Indian handloom industries due to apathy and fully over squeezed by the free market has failed realize it high potentiality, which must be harnessed with domestic planning and proper resources allocations with global opportunities.

The Venkateswaran.A, 2014 studies explores the dynamics of local-level trade in plant-based handloom product in kallidaikurichi of Tirunelveli District based on both primary and secondary data sources analyzes the socio-economic conditions of the handloom weavers and examine the policy of the Government of India towards promoting the handloom industry since independence and examine the organizational issues having impact on the socioeconomic conditions. The study results revealed that the situation of the weavers was worrying due to illiteracy, financial constraints, health problems, and poor Government support and ensured markets and regulations. It is concluded that the Handloom weavers in Tirunelveli, mainly those who have inherited this occupation, are having the pitiable condition owing to the poor socio-economic conditions. The majority of them are wage weavers who earn minimal wages in spite of working for more than ten hours a day in low working condition affecting their overall health. It is interesting to note that the educational status among the weavers community was not discouraging but with same literacy the other sector having more income generations. Almost sixty five per cent of the community belonged to Low income group, engaged with working under middlemen and intermediaries. The basic raw materials of handloom required for the production of Handloom products was Handloom purchased largely from the local market but sometimes co-operative society or local dealers, on high rate of credit which trap in sufferings.

The study of Kathuria, 2013 analyzes the comparative advantage of India and Bangladesh for the Handloom and clothing sector in the world export trade with the help of Balassa's index of Factor Revealed Comparative Advantage (RCA). The study finds the shift in comparative advantage for India and Bangladesh between two periods. The study also points out the constraints restricting the growth of export share of India in world market and offers suggestions to policy makers for enhancing India's export share in the world clothing trade. For calculation of RCA indices, the export data have been taken from "UN Comtrade", of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Further, Spearman rank correlation coefficient has been calculated for measuring the changes over the period 1995-2003 for India and Bangladesh. Findings inferences that the number of products for which India enjoyed the comparative advantage increased from 23 products to 25 products between 1995 and 2003 and for Bangladesh, this number increased from 21 products to 29 products between 1995 and 2003 so the competitiveness of Bangladesh has made strong with respect to India. Clothing exports of India and Bangladesh are classified on the basis of comparative advantage at the HS 4-digit level for the years

1995 and 2003 and the comparative position is given on the basis of a measure of structural change in exports of India and Bangladesh for that contemporary times. The products in which India and Bangladesh have comparative high advantage are garment exports and have been suggested to harness the maximum potential level by identifying the supports, regulations and technology.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are two main objective of the study is

- To determine the impact of trade liberalization on the international trade of handloom products;
- To analyze the impact of trade liberalization on the revealed comparative advantage of India in Handloom products.

IV. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

This research paper has calculated balance of trade (i.e. export-Import) and growth rate of handloom products for all regular consecutive years from 2004-2013. It has also measured and calculated the Revealed Comparative Advantage (RCA) of India in the production of handloom products with comparing it to the all over the world, which has been introduced by Balassa in 1965.

The Revealed Comparative Advantage is an index used in international trade and economics for calculating the relative advantage or disadvantage (RCA) of a particular country in a particular class of goods or services as evidenced by trade flows. It is based on the David Ricardian comparative advantage concept. It is most commonly and usually refers to an index introduced by BelaBalassa:

$$RCA = (E_{ij} / E_{it}) / (E_{nj} / E_{nt})$$

where:

E refers to Exports;

I refer to Country Index;

N refers to Set of countries;

J refers to commodity index;

T refers to set of commodities.

That is, the RCA is just equal to the proportion of the country's exports that are of the class under consideration (E_{ij} / E_{it}) divided by the proportion of world exports that are of that class (E_{nj} / E_{nt}).

A comparative advantage is “revealed” if $RCA > 1$. If RCA is less than unity, the country is said to have a comparative disadvantage in producing for export of such commodity in the industry.

V. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Table – 1: Handloom Product Description under HS Classification

Serial. No.	Product Code HS classification	Description
1.	5007 90	Woven fabrics of silk or of silk waste; Of Handloom, Woven fabrics of combed wool or of combed fine animal hair; Of Handloom
2.	5112 90	Woven fabrics of combed wool or of combed fine animal hair; Of Handloom
3.	5208 31	Handloom Sarees
4.	5208 41	Handloom Sarees
5.	5208 49	Handloom Real Madras Handkerchiefs
6.	5208 59	handloom Zari bordered Sarees,
7.	5209 11	Dhoti, handloom Saree , handloom Casement , Sheeting (Takia, leaopord cloth and other than furnishing). Other Handloom, Handloom Lungi.
8.	5209 51	Handloom Lungi,
9.	5702 42	Carpets, rugs and mats of handloom
10.	5705 00	Cotton durries of handloom (including chindi durries, cotton chenille durries, Rag Rug durries, printed durries, druggets); Mats and matings including bath mats, where cotton predominates by weight, of handloom, cotton rugs of handloom
11.	5802 19	Terry toweling and similar woven terry fabrics of cotton: Of handloom
12.	6214 10	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and the like ; of silk and silk waste: Of handloom
13.	6216 00	Gloves, mittens, and mitts; Of handloom
14.	6302 21	Other bed linen, printed: of cotton: Handloom
15.	6302 51	Other table linen Of cotton Handloom
16.	6302 60	Toilet linen and kitchen linen, of terry toweling or similar terry fabrics, of cotton Handloom
17.	6302 91	Other: Of cotton : Handloom
18.	6304 19	Bed sheets and bed covers, of cotton, Handloom
19.	6304 92	Counterpanes, of Handloom, Napkins, of Handloom, Pillow cases and pillow slips, of handloom, Table cloth and table covers, of handloom, Cushion covers, of handloom
20.	6304 99	Furnishing articles of silk, Handloom
21.	6307 10	Floor-cloths, dish cloths, dusters and similar cleaning cloths: Of cotton

Source: WITS WTO reference data base.

Table -1 shows the details of all the handloom products with the HS classification code and product description in 6-digit HS classification of all commodities in international trading; there are total 21 commodities which come under handloom products under the 6-digit classification. Under 8-digit, there are 32 commodities in India which comes under handloom products.

Trade Balance Analysis

The trade balance during 2004-2013 shows that Woven fabrics of silk or of silk waste (code 500790), Woven fabrics

of combed wool or of combed fine animal hair (code-511290), Handloom Sarees (code-520841), Carpets, rugs and mats of handloom (code-570242) has the unfavorable and disadvantageous trade balance for some years. It might be due to the high domestic emerged demand as the growth of domestic economy of India in these contemporary times has been very strong that emerge India as itself a strong consuming nations on self production and world produced productions of those handloom products which lead to the adverse trade balance. In spite of long heritage of arts and craftsmanship, it is a contrasting figure of India trade deficits. Apart from this, the other almost all of the handloom products show the positive trade balance.

Table-2: Trade Balance of Handloom Products

Year	500790	511290	520841	570242
2004	-4348	-1672.9	positive	-246.52
2005	-17496	-5154.7	positive	positive
2006	-18246	-1569.3	positive	positive
2007	-42463	Positive	positive	positive
2008	-2885	Positive	-1431.3	-1027
2009	positive	Positive	-1852.2	positive
2010	positive	-129.44	-5583	positive
2011	positive	Positive	-1183.1	positive
2012	positive	Positive	-11145	positive
2013	positive	-370.42	-5294.1	positive

Source: Author's calculation based on

WITUNCOMTRADE data base

Growth Rate Analysis

The results inferences that almost in every year, the growth rate of every handloom products recorded almost about stagnant growth rate in all consecutive regular years during 2004-2013.

Table-3: Growth Rate of Handloom Products

Product Code	Average Growth rate(2004-2013)	Product Code	Average Growth rate(2004-2013)
500790	0.020	621410	0.093
511290	0.323	621600	0.203
520831	0.081	630221	0.294
520841	0.624	630251	0.051
520849	0.057	630260	0.426
520859	0.260	630291	0.216
520911	-0.034	630419	0.278
520951	-0.021	630492	0.013
570242	1.054	630499	0.026
570500	0.156	630710	0.228
580219	0.300	_____	_____

Source: Author's calculation based on WITS UNCOMTRADE data base

Revealed Comparative Advantage (RCA) Analysis

Product Code	RCA 2004	RCA 2005	RCA 2006	RCA 2007	RCA 2008	RCA 2009	RCA 2010	RCA 2011	RCA 2012	RCA 2013
500790	14.97	12.95	15.24	9.58	7.87	3.87	5.32	6.05	2.52	1.66
511290	0.49	0.26	0.66	1.23	0.43	0.75	0.06	0.10	0.24	0.16
520831	19.83	21.43	17.68	11.56	15.95	12.14	8.52	10.26	17.31	8.43
520841	2.06	8.72	4.70	4.68	2.07	0.32	0.36	0.43	0.55	0.92
520849	0.89	0.52	0.57	0.70	0.91	1.02	0.64	0.91	0.59	0.25
520859	0.59	3.40	2.68	2.88	2.28	2.48	1.74	2.39	2.26	1.74
520911	31.08	22.89	14.99	15.71	14.63	9.76	8.32	9.84	18.94	7.16
520951	2.79	2.59	2.95	2.65	2.83	0.97	1.28	1.53	2.18	0.80
570242	0.14	0.39	0.64	0.39	0.07	0.05	0.17	0.34	0.67	0.73
570500	33.39	31.74	33.07	22.34	20.03	42.70	0.00	8.41	10.90	11.13
580219	0.42	0.88	0.81	0.52	0.55	0.22	0.61	1.34	2.05	1.87
621410	24.47	18.46	62.08	24.49	27.96	26.80	0.00	41.57	25.30	19.30
621600	0.41	1.08	1.20	1.47	1.08	1.09	0.49	0.54	0.57	0.65
630221	1.53	1.59	3.23	5.36	6.30	2.27	2.31	3.98	3.83	1.42
630251	11.70	10.37	7.94	7.65	7.22	2.76	1.67	12.44	15.48	4.13
630260	5.37	6.10	6.07	6.17	4.71	2.17	4.17	15.03	14.56	12.87
630291	5.89	5.94	5.69	7.63	43.60	2.95	2.03	6.18	9.42	7.39
630419	33.88	43.89	44.93	40.59	36.42	28.23	29.55	30.53	36.32	36.37
630492	85.90	82.40	79.49	58.95	45.93	47.50	41.18	34.39	40.19	30.40
630499	10.11	15.16	16.47	9.55	9.96	7.58	5.91	5.60	2.94	3.24
630710	4.45	8.74	13.90	13.39	13.13	9.80	2.38	5.45	7.89	3.84

Table-4: RCA of Handloom Products

Source: Author’s calculation based on WITS UNCOMTRADE data base

Table-4 on the basis of WITS UNCOMTRADE data studied and analyzed shows that India has revealed comparative advantage in 15 handloom products, whereas it has comparative disadvantage in the production of six handloom products only. The products are Woven fabrics of combed wool or of combed fine animal hair (code-511290), Handloom Sarees (code-520841), handloom Zari bordered Sarees (code-520849), Carpets, rugs and mats of handloom (code-570242), Terry toweling and similar woven terry fabrics of cotton (Code-580219), Gloves, mittens, and mitts (Code-621600).

It inferences and shows India has high potentiality in the production of handloom products for international trading and exchange markets.

Growth of Handloom Export of India during 2013-18

Table-5: Handloom Export Trends 2013-18

year	Export in Rs	Net Change in Export	Net percentage growth %
2012-13	2100	0	
2013-14	2233	133	6.33
2014-15	2246	13	0.58
2015-16	2353	107	4.76
2016-17	2392	39	1.65
2017-18	2280	-112	-4.68

Source: The Office of Handloom Export Promotion Council, Ministry of Textile, GOI, Aug 2019

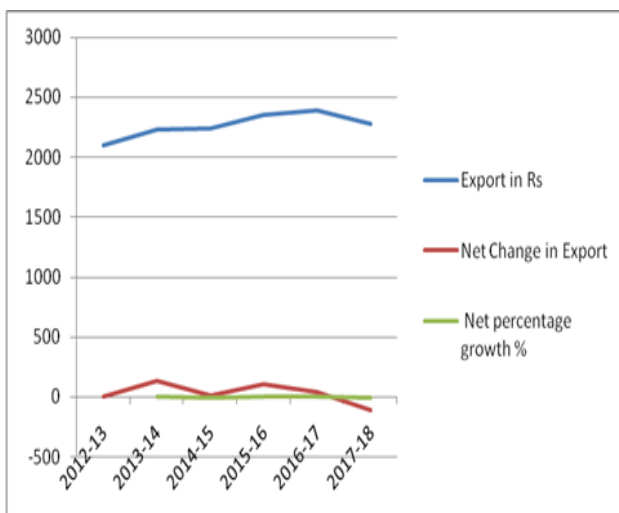


Figure 1 The Export Growth trend of Indian HanloomProduct during 2013-18

The RCA of handloom from 2004 to 2013 and export of handloom from 2012 to 2018 has been studied well to understand the Indian existing advantage to the Indian handloom product in the world market and the export performances finds that there is excess almost in every 21 of the handloom product India has the huge comparative advantage and the export trends also showing the increasing share year by year except in 2017-18 due dollars price increases and others short times affecting factors, the most

important factor to harness the comparative advantage is that the state and government must ensure to upgrade the training and technology of contemporary world to fairly play in the world trading markets.

Policy Implication

In the light of above empirical results, the study suggests the following policy implication for the government as below:

- Since handloom sector provides significant employment opportunities, it should be given aid and subsidies to explore its potentiality.
- The marketing of Handloom products should be channelized for international and intra-national trade since handloom sector is the most unorganized sector.
- Government should imparts the better education, training and technology to increase the handloom producing productivity to harness the comparative advantage in the sector.
- Government should take steps to improve its exports and trade balance.

VI. CONCLUSION

- Handloom industry has an important place in economic as well as cultural history of India.
- Though India has very high revealed comparative advantage in the production of most of the products, it worked below its potentiality.
- Due to the government apathy towards handloom sector, its workers are suffering from the poverty and high level of unemployment with traditional tech.
- Government should take proper policies to promote and flourish this long heritage sector.

The handloom industry provides the most essential natural sustainable clothing for humankind since the early civic times has gone through the various up gradation in its arts, crafts and technology throughout the world; it has been one largest in employment concentrating and one of the most important occupation, the decline of Indian artisan during British Period had adversely affected the handloom sector, the conditions of handloom in independent India has improved and again develop the comparative advantage in this sector throughout the world but in the policy liberalization regime the individualization of weavers and handloom producers from state protection has not ensured the profession and professional at par the others emerging industries. The most of the Indian handloom product has high relative comparative advantages in the world trade so the present sizes of trade can be increased to many folds with the required proper state art and craft affairs and with proper required structure of handloom industry with better training, technology, protection and promotions that improves the socioeconomic conditions of weavers and all handloom producing associates and nations share in the world trade up to its prevailing potentiality.



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