Abstract

The handloom products are the largest and the most important cottage products of Bangladesh whereas Benarashi, Jamdani and Lungi are the famous handloom products in Bangladesh. Handloom products contribute significantly to the economic activities of Bangladesh. Notably, this product plays an important role on the livelihood of the rural people and a good share of the local demand for textiles. This study is an attempt to analyze the cost-benefit of Benarashi, Jamdani and Lungi handloom weavers operating in Dhaka and Narayanganj district. The study is mainly based on both primary and secondary data. A study with an open-ended questionnaire was conducted for primary data. A total of 90 Benarasi, 40 Jamdani, and 40 Lungi handloom entrepreneurs were selected from Mirpur, Narayangonj and Keranigonj areas by convenience sampling technique respectively for the study. Analysis of the data has been performed by mathematical and statistical methods. The benefit-cost analysis approach aided us to measure the profitability of the handloom enterprises. The major findings of the study show that handloom weaving activity is still profitable despite some problems for which this sector may be on its way to extinction. On the other hand, among the three handloom products, Jamdani is the most profitable and Benarashi is the least.

Keywords: Handloom, Benefit-Cost, Profitability, Bangladesh.
I. Introduction

Entrepreneurship is an evolving idea since its birth in the 1700s. Researchers try to define entrepreneurs in various ways. For example, entrepreneurs take the risk of going to take a new venture willingly bearing all the risks incorporated to make a profit out of it (Kirzner 1973). However, the definitions of entrepreneurs provided by Kanbur (1979) are very relevant in the context of developing countries where risks and uncertainty associated to enter into a new venture is very high. Kanbur (1979, pp773) describes an entrepreneur manages the production function through paying wages and bearing the associated risks and uncertainties with the whole production process. High risks and uncertainty cut down the probability of success, which can be a leading cause of predominance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) (Wiggins 1995, cited in Naude 2013). On the whole, most economists agree that entrepreneurship is an essential element of economic practices for fostering growth and creating employment opportunities in an economy. Moreover, successful SMEs are the key sources of employment, economic growth, and poverty alleviation in the developing countries. Therefore, governments in the developing countries put high emphasis through policy support for the flourishing of entrepreneurship as a key strategy for economic development (Naude 2013). In this backdrop, it is interesting to see whether the traditional economic practice of handloom products is still contributing to the economy of Bangladesh through profitability.

Turning to profit is something that runs a business enterprise. Harward & Upton (1961) opines, “Profitability is the ability of a given investment to earn a return from its use.” In other words, profitability refers to the ability to make a profit from business activities. Furthermore, it indicates the efficiency of the management through the best use of all the resources of an organization.

As far as profitability is concerned, benefit-cost ratio is the most important ratio for business. It tests the overall performance of business in regarding profitability. This ratio defines the relationship of the total benefits earned to the total costs to earn it. From a management point of view, this ratio is instrumental in finding how effectively and efficiently the management has used the funds supplied by the owners and creditors. To put in more simply, this ratio analyzes the earning power of the net assets of the business.

The handloom products are one of the most potential cottage industries in Bangladesh. It has created employment opportunity for a large number of people. According to BHB (Bangladesh Handloom Board, 2008), this product consists of about 505 thousand handloom machines running at more than 183 thousand handloom units. However, the number of active looms is about 300 thousand, which is the source of income for about 1 million workforce including weavers, dyers, spinners, embroiderers and related artisans work. Handloom products in Bangladesh maintain gender parity as 50% of the weavers is a female worker. Each year the products produce around 687 million meters of fabrics. Benarashi and Jamdani Sarees and Lungi are the three top handloom products produced in numerous production centers throughout the country. The productions of these centers reach the central markets through a primary and secondary network. These cottage products meet the significant part of the requirements for dresses for both men and women and other activities in the country.

As far as value addition is concerned, the handloom products is a promising sector for the economy of Bangladesh. The value addition by this sector to the national economy is BDT 10 billion. Directly or indirectly, handloom products have created employment opportunities for over 10 million people (BIDS, 1988).

Scholars have assessed the profitability of handloom products from different perspectives. For example, Islam et al. (2013) performed a cost-benefit analysis on the basis of the size of the entrepreneurship. Chowdhury (1990) assessed profitability in comparison with that of power loom or industrial weaving mills. On the other hand, Wasow et al. (1989) conducted a cases study on the handloom products of Bangladesh. However, study on the relative profitability of different handloom items not available. The current study has shed lights on this gray area.

Handloom products in Bangladesh are encountering various problems ranging from adopting the ancient weaving technique to less motivation of the entrepreneurs to invest in this traditional products. Weavers of handloom industries in Bangladesh are still carrying out the legacy of the centuries-old weaving mechanism. This sector faces tremendous challenges from power-loom products and industrial weaving products, also from the availability of clothes in the market imported from India, legally and
The production of this handicraft products is also challenged by the inability to use modern technology, the inadequacy of working capital (ADB, 2002) and absence of a proper distribution channel to match demand and supply of raw materials and finished products (News Today, 2005). The study encompasses these problems and gives some policy recommendations to overcome these issues. In this context, an assessment of the profitability of the handloom products can identify the untapped potentials of this sector.

After a short literature reviews the article, the article goes in detail with a brief introduction on Benarashi, Jamdani and Lungi followed by an assessment of the profitability of these products. Later, barriers of handloom products discussed and some recommendations were made at the end of the article.

2. Literature Review

Extensive study has been conducted, so far, covering different aspects, including its contribution to the economy, profitability, inherent weaknesses and problems encountered by this products. Handloom products consist of about 505 thousand handloom machines running at more than 183 thousand handloom units. However, the number of active looms is about 300 thousand. The productions of these centers reach the central markets through a primary and secondary network. This cottage product meets the significant part of the requirements for dresses for both men and women and other economic activities in the country (Bangladesh Handloom Board, 2008).

Weavers of handloom industries in Bangladesh are still carrying on the legacy of the centuries-old weaving mechanism. As follows: Jamdani is originated from famous Dhaka muslin. (Zohir, 1996). Handloom products are highly demanding exportable items for their unique and exclusive design and high quality and are being exported to meet the ever increasing demands in overseas since 1972 (Sobhan, 1999).

The handloom products are still making significant contributions to the national economy. Each year the products produce around 687 million meters of fabrics (Bangladesh Handloom Board, 2008), enabling these products to make an significant contribution to the textile products of Bangladesh. 10 million people, directly or indirectly, earn their livelihood from handloom products. As the biggest handicraft products in Bangladesh, this sector adds value to the national economy worth about BDT 10 billion. It is also recognized as the second largest source of rural employment (BIDS, 1988).

Some studies were done to assess the cost-benefit analysis of handloom products in Bangladesh. Islam et al. Ghosh (2013) performed a cost-benefit analysis to assess the profitability of the handloom industries in Bangladesh. They conducted their research on Kumarkhali Upazila, Kustia where Saree, Lungi, Bedsheet, Wrapper, Gumchha (Towel), etc. are produced. They found that handloom products are a profitable sector, where per-loom profit for small scale and large scale units is higher than that for the medium scale units. In a study conducted on handlooms, power looms, and mills in Bangladesh Chowdhury (1990) found that handlooms are economically more efficient than either power loom or industrial weaving mill. A similar result is obtained in another study conducted by Rahman (1980). Based on a case study Wasow et al. (1989) also found that handloom is similarly equivalent or a more efficient technique than power-loom. However, the item-wise profitability of handloom products has been overlooked in the studies, which is encompassed in the current research.

However, handloom products are encountering difficulties kept unaddressed. Firstly, the major barrier which is creating hindrance to the development of handloom products is the supply of cloth from India by legal and illegal ways and prominence of power-loom produced clothes in the market (Ahmed, 1999). Secondly, weavers don’t get quality raw materials at the right time and at the right place (Ahmed, 1999) and absence of a proper distribution channel which can match between demands and supply (News Today, 2005). Finally, weavers don’t get chances to use contemporary technology because of the inadequacy of working capital (ADB, 2002). Whereas the producers and suppliers of this products are sinking deeper into poverty, the Govt. does little to improve their situation. Instead of being highly skilled the handloom workers are lagging behind in adopting the modern technology (and market) due to the absence of infrastructural support. (Sobhan 1989).

Jaforullah (1999) found that the technical efficiency of handloom products of Bangladesh is only 41% and it can be improved by increasing its male and female labor ratio and decreasing its hired/family labor ratio and labor/capital ratio.

Scenario of Benarashi, Jamdani, and Lungi:
Benarasi

The Benarasi products in Bangladesh arrived from India during 1947. The artisans from Benaras of India migrated to Rajshahi and Dhaka (old). After the independence of Bangladesh, the migrated artisans in Dhaka took refuge in the camps at Mirpur and continued their profession of weaving Sarees. The then small handloom products and its production started getting larger in size day by day. From a home-based products production of Saree in Mirpur gradually became big products. Later in the late nineties, a big Saree-market also grew up there to sell the locally produced Sarees. This market is named as the Benarasi Palli.

According to BIDS (1988), the skill of making Benarasi Saree was brought in by non-Bengalis, and they are the ones who knew this craft at the beginning. But later on, more Bengali people showed interest to learn the weaving technique. At present there are equal numbers of some Bengali and non-Bengali artisans. The Benarasi Palli at Mirpur, a volatile market was first established by people Indian migrated people. Most of the weavers there are migrated workers from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh of India. According to the estimation of the local traders, there are about 110 shops in this Palli. Some 20 to 25 thousand people are employed in the production of Benarashi Saree business in this Palli.

But the Benarasi products is experiencing massive problems. As a result, numbers of ‘craftsmen, handlooms, and outlets’ are reducing drastically. The current handloom products are now experiencing some critical problems. As a result, the products people who produce Benarashi Saree by cumbersome procedure and physical labor are at the risk of losing their only source of livelihood. The handloom workers of Bangladesh still depend on the manual procedure, but that in India has forwarded to a power based products. The handloom products are booming in India by taking the technological benefit of a relatively low cost of production. But here the products is waning day by day as the workers still could not avail the advanced technical benefits. There are some other reasons for which, including lack of patronization and role of other social and economic factors, the handloom products in Bangladesh is falling back in the competition with India. To make more profit Benarashi Palli, the largest Benarashi market in the country, are also producing some other Sarees like, ‘Jamdani, qatans, and other gorgeous Saree’s. The weavers are leaving the profession failing to sustain in ‘fashion competitiveness’s. Shopping malls, where Sarees with the latest design and fashion are available to have grown up in and adjacent areas of Benarasi Palli. Weavers in Benarasi Palli are using traditional methods and design. They do not have any qualification to go for new designs. Old traditional designs are no more attracting the customers, especially from new generations. Besides, Benarashi Sarees are relatively costly. As a result, the once booming handloom products is now squeezing in terms of market size failing in competition. Some of the most produced types of Benarashi Sarees are burokit, jangla, katan, parachal etc. the respondents of the study.

Jamdani

Jamdani Saree is a handloom product and made from mostly cotton. Muslin, an ultra-thin and soft fabric produced once upon a time in Bangladesh is the ancient version of Jamdani Saree. Jamdani is found in various types like geometric, flowered or fabricated, etc. But whatever may be the type; Jamdani is recognized as the best handloom product in Bangladesh.

Jamdani is mostly produced in Narayanganj, a city next to to the capital Dhaka. In Sonargaon of Narayanganj district, there is a market where Jamdani Sarees have been traditionally sold very early morning. A large number of Jamdani Sarees are sold on a wholesale basis in that market, but still, the weavers are very low paid though each Saree requires a lot of toils. The Jamdani Saree bought at low cost from the weavers gets very high when it is displayed in the showrooms of the shopping malls of the cities. In Hawkers market and Benaroshi Palli Jamdani Sarees are sold at a reasonable price (BIDS, 1988).

It is believed that Jamdani is a fusion of local ancient cloth-making techniques with muslin. The people of this part of the world mastered the technique of making clothes from two thousand years back. Later, in the Mughal regime, the weavers started to weave muslin, the finest fabric of cotton. Jamdani patterns and designs are mostly based on different geometric shapes, plant, and flower. Such designs are said to originate fusion of Persian and Mughal designs. Jamdani is a delicate art taking a lot physical effort. Due to the high cost of production, only nobles and royal families used such luxurious dresses (Banarjee, Mujib, and Sharmin, 2014).

Different types of Jamdani Sarees are being produced in our country. In our study, we found that based on fabrics mostly three types of
Jamdani Sarees are produced such as- nylon, silk/half-silk, and cotton. But based on artwork different types of Jamdani Sarees are produced such as- angul peir, modern peir, pan peir, soroli peir, dumurer peir, tespi, kutil peir, korolla peir, vengi peir, kolka peir, adarfana, dhakai, patta, gach peir, kawatingi, dath peir, konok peir, ponamachi.

3. Methodology and Analytical Formulas

Sampling technique:
In Bangladesh, the handloom products produce Benarashi, Jamdani, Lungi, Silk Saree, Tangail Saree, traditional Gamcha, Mosquito Net, Bed Sheet and tribal tribal dresses. Among them, Benarashi, Jamdani, and Lungi have been identified as most important handloom products through expert consultation and literature survey. The study area of the research has been selected Dhaka. The study has followed a mixed approach combining qualitative and quantitative methods of research. The study uses both primary and secondary data for analysis. The data was collected from 5 January to 11 January 2016. Before collecting data from the field, validity and reliability of the open-ended questionnaire were checked by two local experts. To get primary data, the survey was conducted through an open-ended questionnaire among 170 entrepreneurs, who are the producers and suppliers of Benarashi, Jamdani, and Lungi. Among them 90 were Benarasi, 40 were Jamdani and 40 were Lungi handloom entrepreneurs. The participants for the questionnaire survey were selected by simple random sampling technique from Mirpur Benarashi Palli for Benarashi Saree, Rupganj of Narayanganj for Jamdani Saree and Keraniganj of Dhaka for Lungi. In and around Dhaka these three places are the biggest production area of the above-stated handloom products.

Data analysis:
To perform the cost-benefit analysis an activity budget was made to assess the profitability of the Benarashi, Jamdani and Lungi weaving products. For this, the averages of production cost, investment, the net return of the three industries were calculated to find the benefit-cost ratio. The calculation encompasses the following items.

Profitability calculation of the handlooms
There are two types of cost of producing clothes by handloom: (a) fixed cost (investment= capital cost+ tools and equipment costs) and (b) variable costs (input cost+ labor cost+ energy cost+ others).

Average fixed cost (AFC) = \[ \text{Total fixed cost of N number of enterprises} \] ÷ \[ \text{N} \],

Average variable cost (AVC) = \[ \text{Total variable cost of N number of enterprises} \] ÷ \[ \text{N} \],

Average Total Cost (ATC)= AFC + AVC

Profitability (Benefit cost ratio): Average total revenue (ATR) ÷ Average total cost (ATC)

4. Findings and analysis of the study
This part is divided into four parts. In the first part, demographic features of Benarashi, Jamdani and Lungi entrepreneurs collected from the survey are presented. In the following part, the benefit-cost ratio of these three handloom industries is calculated. In the next part, the barriers identified by the entrepreneurs during the interview were discussed. In the final part, remedies to overcome these barriers, as provided by the entrepreneurs are presented.
4.1 Demographic features of handloom entrepreneurs:

Age:
Most of the participants (44.30%) are in the age group 41 to 50 years. 28.48% belong to the age group 31 to 40 years. 18.636 percent are above 50 years of age, and 8.86% belong to the age group 18 to 30 years. The age distribution shows that participants are mostly aged. One of the possible reasons is that young people are not interested in joining in this profession.

Figure-1: Age distribution of the respondents

Education status of entrepreneurs:
The highest percentage (49.37%) of entrepreneurs obtained primary education whereas, the graduate entrepreneurs were found to hold the lowest percentage (2.63%). Secondary and higher secondary educated entrepreneurs, in total, are around 48% of the total entrepreneurs.

Figure-2: Educational status of the respondents

Status of labor:
The laborers in the handloom products were mostly found skilled workforce. It is found that 60% of the laborers is skilled and the remaining 40% is unskilled. The skilled workforce is the artisan of the handloom and the unskilled workforce work as a helper to them.

4.2 Profitability Analysis of Handloom Products:
This part finds the benefit-cost ratio of the three handloom products for the year 2015. Average fixed cost is calculated by dividing the total fixed cost of all the enterprises with the number of enterprises. Likewise, the average variable cost of the enterprises is estimated. Average total cost is calculated as the summation of average variable cost and average fixed cost. Average total revenue is calculated by dividing the total revenue of all the enterprises with the number of enterprises. Average total revenue per enterprise divided by average total cost gives a benefit-cost ratio.

Benarasi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount BDT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average variable cost (AVC)</td>
<td>1072400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average fixed investment (AFC)</td>
<td>1131133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average total cost (ATC)</td>
<td>2203533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average total revenue (ATR)</td>
<td>2482746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit cost ratio (BCR) of Benarasi</td>
<td>ATR + ATC = 2482746 / 2203533 = 1.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jamdani

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount BDT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average variable cost (AVC)</td>
<td>5199173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average fixed investment (AFC)</td>
<td>5756870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average total cost (ATC)</td>
<td>10956043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average total revenue (ATR)</td>
<td>14592043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit cost ratio (BCR) of Jamdani</td>
<td>ATR + ATC = 14592043 / 10956043 = 1.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lungi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount BDT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average variable cost (AVC)</td>
<td>205636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average fixed investment (AFC)</td>
<td>182273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average total cost (ATC)</td>
<td>387910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average total revenue (ATR)</td>
<td>455274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit cost ratio (BCR) of Lungi</td>
<td>ATR + ATC = 455274 / 387910 = 1.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The result shows that handloom products like Benarashi, Jamdani and Lungi are profitable. Jamdani is the most profitable among the three items, and Benarashi is the least profitable and the
profitability of Lungi is between Benarashi and Jamdani.

**Figure-4-:** Graphical representation of benefit-cost ratio of Jamdani, Lungi, and Benarasi

4.3 Barriers of Handloom Products in Bangladesh:

Traditionally, the handloom products in Bangladesh have been recognized as the prominent products, and it has been identified as the backbone of our agricultural economy. However, this industry has some inherent problems. Various limitations, which are creating barriers to this sector, have been identified. These are discussed below:

**The high price of raw materials:** If the price of the yarn is not controlled the small products might collapse as said by a number of weavers in the survey.

**The scarcity of running capital:** The owners do not get loans either short term or long term. For this, this product traditionally suffers from a lack of capital.

**Inadequate loans for carrying on businesses:** The weavers start their businesses by taking loans. Whatever profit they make goes to the money lenders, so profit reduces.

**High-interest rates for the loans taken by the weavers:** If the weavers were not spared from giving interests and if the loans were not provided by the government, the traditional art might become extinct from Bangladesh (ADB, 2002).

**Lack of influence of modern technology:** Some expert weavers said, although technology has changed many sectors, this sector had remained out of the influence of modern technology. Still, the weavers use their hands to put colors on the yarns and in return they do not get an adequate wage.

**Inadequate training facilities:** Government initiative to provide training to the weavers is very inadequate.

**Lack of Government support:** For financial and some other reasons about 37.6 percent of the handlooms all over the country cannot go for production (ADB, 2002).

**Inadequate wages:** The weavers do not get adequate wages for their labor. According to a national daily, the wages of a senior weaver are between BDT 2,500 to BDT 3,000 per month, whereas junior weavers earn around BDT 1,600 per month. As a consequence, weavers are not willing to bring their children to this profession.

**Discrimination against women handloom workers:** The handloom sector has created employment for a large number of women in Bangladesh. But unfortunately, they do not get due importance and most often gets unpaid (ADB, 2002).

4.4 Remedies for Overcoming the Barriers:

**Adequate Supply of Raw Material:**

The scarcity of raw material, yarn, dyes and other accessories is a big problem for this sector. Prices of yarn are gradually increasing. Availability of hank yarn in the market is controlled by big spinning mills. Most of the hank yarns are diverted to power looms and spinning mills. As a result, there is a regular shortage of yarn for the handloom weavers.

**Rejuvenation, Technological and Quality Upgradation**

Handloom weavers should utilize the latest designs used in the national and international level and will have to learn the related modern technologies (Banarjee et al., 2014).

**Improving the Situation of Women Labors:**

Gender issue should be considered seriously in the preparation of delicate and special products list. Foreign Trade Policy should be sensitive "to the needs of women and production systems involving women" (BIDS, 1988). Besides, women weavers should be given a special incentive in the national budget (BIDS, 1988).
Infrastructure and Investment Facility
Investment in handloom products is only limited to input and supply costs. Investment is not made for the development of the sector as a whole. Facilities like land, water, and electricity should be made available in areas where the existing handloom industries are running to transform these products more productive. Power based looms get more support from the government for land, water and electricity facility than hand looms. New initiatives should be taken so that entrepreneurs come with capital to invest in this sector (BIDS, 1988).

Patenting Designs
Handloom designs should be patented to protect them. ‘Protection options include the development of handloom/silk/jute marks and registration under Geographical Indications Act. However, more discussion is required on this if handloom has to come up with designs that suit the market preferences and are still protected against theft’ (Chowdhury, 1981).

Distributions in Budget
The window of assistance for handloom products in the national budget should be widened up. To boost up the once booming handloom products, there should be more allocation for handloom industries in the budget (BIDS, 1998).

Free Export/Import Trade
Handloom products carry our heritage. To promote it inside and outside the country the products requires some additional attention. International trades related to handloom products should be declared tax free so that more investors come to invest in this sector (Chowdhury, 1989).

Proper Marketing for Products
Handloom products should get more exposure. There should be more opportunities for the handloom products to get marketed. More exhibitions of handloom products should be arranged by the government and private organizations. A better marketing system bringing all the handloom industries under an umbrella, supervised by the government can make the handloom products available everywhere (Chowdhury, 1989).

Improving the Design
It is strongly recommended for improving designs which are used by the current handloom weavers. But there are big barriers towards this change. The major challenge is the lack of investment in this sector. Weavers are eager to learn new designs, but they do not have the money to learn and adopt new technologies for new designs (Chowdhury, 1981).

Proper Pricing of Raw Material
Cotton, silk, and jute are the main ingredients to produce handloom products. Though these are produced in Bangladesh, due to various economic factors the prices of these, especially, cotton and silk, are regularly increasing. High prices of the raw materials impede the handloom weavers, who cannot invest much in production. Availability of these raw materials should be ensured for the handloom weavers. Areas where the farmers of the raw materials live in close proximity of the weavers, there should be a direct linkage so that the weavers get easy access to the raw materials at a low-cost rate (Chowdhury, 1989).

Cooperative System
Though Cooperatives help in maximizing the benefits for weavers in the entire chain of production, their present condition is a cause of worry. The handloom cooperative system is riddled with corruption and political interference. Many handloom weavers are not members of these cooperatives. The cooperative societies should be established to unite the weavers, but not to use them as a medium of operating crime and corruption (BIDS, 1988).

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Addition of Value
The value of handloom products can be increased by some innovative steps, like utilization of organic cotton, organic yarn, and application of natural dyes. And the productivity of the looms can be improved through research and innovation (Chowdhury, 1981).
Elimination of Unfair Competition from Mills and Power-looms

Handloom products are competing with bigger mills and power-loom, who are getting incentives from the government in various forms. Besides, this cottage product has to compete with Indian clothes. This uneven competition should be taken care of so that handloom products can boom with capacity.

Fair Wages

Handloom weavers work at very low wages, which have not increased over the last decade. With such a low-income weavers cannot survive. It is very high time to review their wages.

5. Conclusion

The current study has analyzed the profitability of handloom weaving enterprises of three items Benarashi, Jamdani and Lungi in the Dhaka and Naryanganj. It shows that benefit-cost ratios handloom weaving enterprises are positive. It has also found that Jamdani is the most profitable among three (Benefit-cost ratio: 1.33). It is followed by Lungi (1.17). And the last is Benarashi (1.13). Therefore, handloom products in the study area are profitable. Handloom products play a vibrant role in our national economy. Many people get an occupational opportunity from this products and government is also getting substantial amount taxes and VATs from the loom products. It has an outstanding reputation, but the growth and market share are not adequate of this products to the national and global perspective as the products are tormented with many hindrances. To operate the business successfully, it needs a low-priced flow of raw materials, the safety of the weavers, obtainable conveyance system, credit from banks with zero interest, steady political situation and above all, a good attention of the government to cherish the products and thus getting back the pride worldwide. This study concentrated on whether this sector is profitable nowadays or not and also the obstacles that are unsmoothing the way of this sector. This study provides some remedies of these barriers to protect as well as to foster the growth of this sector. It is hopeful that irrespective of the problems this sector is still a profitable sector as the benefit-cost ratio is more than one in all three items. The barriers to this products should be addressed to make this product more productive.

References:


