

Impact of Cultural Capital on Handloom Weaving: An Ethnographic study on the Weavers of Varanasi City in India

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Abstract: The present study is an effort to understand cultural capital in the context of handloom weaving. Bourdieu viewed cultural capital as consumption of specific cultural forms that mark people as members of specific classes. It developed into and embodied through informal learning (via family member) at home. This embodied form of capital helps to obtain the other forms of capitals (like economic, social and symbolic) and acts as a power resource to gain and to hold position in handloom industry. In handloom industry, the art (knowledge and skill) of weaving is the primary cultural capital of the weavers. A qualitative study on purposively selected one hundred fifty traditional handloom weavers of North Indian city of Varanasi explains how acquiring the readily available cultural capital of the family continues to reproduce the positions of weavers in the society.

Key words : cultural capital, art, skill, weavers, handloom weaving, urban\