



## Marginal Propensity to Save: A Study of Women Workers in the Carpet Industry of Bhadohi District

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**Abstract** : - The carpet business is characterised by a high need for manual labour, with a significant proportion of workers belonging to marginalised ethnic groups, experiencing unemployment, and without formal education. The employment in carpet industry is of a transient nature. A significant number of farmers are involved in this industry. Therefore, it facilitates the reallocation of excess labour from agricultural sectors. Carpet weaving is a perfect occupation for rural individuals residing in metropolitan areas and for female workers due to its lack of demanding physical labour. The work force is diverse, consisting of individuals from various castes and family origins, each with differing degrees of ability and income. A survey was conducted in the Bhadohi area to examine the saving habits of female workers in the carpet industry. A total of 350 female employees were chosen for this research from 30 carpet manufacturing establishments located in the Bhadohi district. Stratified random sampling has been used to collect this data. The study revealed that the savings behaviour of female employees in the surveyed area is characterised by a low level.

**Keywords** - Marginal, Propensity, Women, Workers, Carpet, Industry, Bhadohi

**Introduction:** Akbar, the Mughal emperor, is acknowledged for bringing pile carpets to India, hence initiating the country's illustrious heritage in carpet weaving. Indian carpets rose to popularity during the reigns of emperors Jahangir and Shahjahan, with the creation of exquisite items created throughout their dominion. Over time, carpets became more widely used by not just the nobility but also by regular people and the business class. This led to the industry being enhanced with distinctive designs and vivid colours created by talented weavers who became artists. India's traditional carpet business has a long history of 400 years and is known globally for its skilled weavers who are highly versatile, skilled, and capable of meeting commercial needs (Yasmin and Bhat, 2013). The carpet weaving business in India has thrived as one of the oldest human-made companies, known for its labour-intensive nature and substantial contribution to the handicraft sector, with a major focus on developing

rural regions. The sector is predominantly focused on exporting its products, supporting the livelihoods of almost 2.5 million craftspeople and producing significant foreign exchange revenues. After the liberalisation of the Indian economy, the carpet industry in India has witnessed significant and rapid expansion, particularly in the post-liberalization period. This growth has been particularly pronounced in the export of hand-knotted carpets, which account for 80 percent of the total carpet exports. India has a strong presence in the international carpet industry, with a 35 percent share of total global carpet exports. It exports carpets to more than 70 countries, including key destinations such as the USA and European Union. These two regions combined make up a considerable amount of India's carpet exports. The Bhadohi district was awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) badge in 2010. "Handmade carpet of Bhadohi" is known all over the world. The districts of Bhadohi, Mirzapur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Jaunpur, Sonbhadra, Kaushambi, and Chandauli would be labelled as "handmade carpet of Bhadohi".

**Carpet Industry: The Informal sector:** The carpet industry, often considered a vital component of the informal sector, embodies a complex web of production, trade, and labour arrangements. This sector's significance lies not only in its economic contributions but also in its social and cultural dimensions. As asserted by Varshney and Singh (2018), the carpet industry thrives within informal networks, characterized by decentralized production units, flexible employment structures, and reliance on traditional craftsmanship. These features distinguish it from formal industrial settings, underscoring the informal sector's role as a cornerstone of employment, particularly in regions with rich artisanal heritage

**Review of literature:** The article A glimpse into the lives of women weavers from India's carpet capital, Mirzapur the daily guardian, (2023) discusses the remarkable transformation of women weavers in Mirzapur, India, who have defied societal barriers and patriarchal norms to become skilled craftsmen, weaving intricate carpets. Over the past seven years, more than 1800 women have joined this traditionally male-dominated industry, supported by Obeetee, a leading carpet maker. These women, who previously had limited mobility outside their homes, have shown a 400% increase in participation since 2017. This shift highlights the profound impact of initiatives aimed at empowering women and challenging gender stereotypes in artisanal trades.

Majeed, I. & Swalehin, M., (2021) shows the exploitation faced by weavers due to middlemen, low earnings, and long working hours, indicating significant challenges within the sector. They discuss the complex diversity of production relations in the carpet industry, which include independent commodity production, dependent putting-out, and wage labour. Unlike purely independent or capitalist production, the carpet industry exhibits a variety of putting-out relations dominated by middlemen, master-weavers, and merchant capital. Further they said Piece-wage serves as a means of surplus extraction for capitalists in this industry.

Bano, (2016) in her study highlights the dual burden faced by working women in balancing their domestic responsibilities with their professional duties. Despite these challenges, women are recognized as adept homemakers, often sacrificing personal time and energy to excel in both spheres. The study suggests that the carpet industry offers significant employment opportunities for women, leading to economic independence and empowerment. Participation in this sector not only improves the financial well-being of families but also enhances the overall socio-economic conditions. Moreover, the industry caters to women with varying levels of education and skills, further contributing to their empowerment. In essence, the small-scale carpet industry serves as a vehicle for women's employment and empowerment.

Gita Dhakal Chalise, (2010) investigate the experiences of women about sexual harassment and its subsequent effects on them in Kathmandu. According to this study 72% of the workers were aware of Sexual Harassment, and of them, 52% reported experiencing it in their employment. Passing lewd jokes, comments, or taunting obscenely was the most prevalent kind of sexual harassment, accounting for 87% of cases. 23% of the workers experienced employment interruption, with 61% reporting mental effects and 8% reporting physical effects as a

result of harassment. All the workers had a sense of satisfaction and the implementation of punishment towards the wrongdoer. However, none of the factories had implemented a policy on sexual harassment, and none of the workers had reported any incidents of sexual harassment to the management.

### Objective:

- 1- To examine the marginal propensity to save for women workers related to income and saving pattern in the study area of Bhadohi district.

### Hypothesis:

1. **H0:** The marginal propensity to save of women workers related to income and saving pattern in the study area is not low.  
**H1:** The marginal propensity to save of women workers related to income and saving pattern in the study area is low.

**Research methodology:** The present study primarily relies on primary data sources, which were obtained through comprehensive field surveys conducted in the district. The data was acquired by directly questioning the workers. Field surveys were conducted in June 2023. Carpet workers addressed a variety of inquiries on their salary and saving habits. The survey was conducted at specific carpet manufacturing plants located in six blocks of Bhadohi district. 30 units were chosen using stratified random selection. 350 women workers were surveyed to gather data on their income, savings. A systematic interview schedule was conducted to obtain primary data from women workers in carpet facilities. Data collecting and data feeding tasks can be facilitated using tables. The data is also examined using suitable econometric and statistical methods, such as the basic linear regression model. The SPSS programme, which stands for Special Packages for Statistical programme, has been utilised for conducting regression.

The equation for the analysis of Simple regression model is framed as follows:

$$S_i = \alpha + \beta Y_i + U_i$$

Where s = saving

Y = income

U = Error Term

### Block wise distribution of weavers

**Table 1: Block wise distribution of women workers in the carpet industry:**

Block	No. of Respondent
Gyanpur	60
Bhadohi	80
Surinyawa	50
Digh	45
Abholi	45
Aurai	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>

Source: data collected through field survey.

The above table 1 reveals that the Bhadohi district has 6 blocks that is Gyanpur, Bhadohi, Suriyanwa, Digh, Abholi and Aurai. In this study 80 workers which is maximum respondents are randomly taken from Bhadohi

block(tahsil) because many carpet industries are established here as compare to other blocks of Bhadihi district. 70 women workers are taken from Aurai Block followed by Bhadohi district there are also many carpet industries located here. 60 women workers are taken from Gyanpur block, 50 women workers are taken from Suriyanwa block, 45 women workers are taken from Digh block and also 45 women workers are taken from Abholi block of Bhadohi district.

**Income composition of women workers:** The economic standing is determined by the degree of education needed to secure a job and the salary levels that varies across various occupations and within occupational hierarchies. The economic standing of an individual is determined by their work qualities, decision-making capacity, level of control, and the psychological demands placed on them in their employment. The user's text is empty. The economic position of individuals and society relies on the presence of revenue, which plays a crucial role in enhancing the socio-economic condition.

**Table 2: Monthly Income of women workers in the carpet industry of Bhadohi district.**

Women workers	income				Total
	less than 4000	4001-6000	6001-8000	above 8000	
pre weaver	32.8%	47.4%	15.5%	4.3%	100.0%
weaver	4.3%	23.6%	34.3%	37.9%	100.0%
finishing worker	28.7%	52.1%	16.0%	3.2%	100.0%
Total	20.3%	39.1%	23.1%	17.4%	100.0%

Source: data collected through field survey.

This table 2 provides a detailed overview of how the monthly income is distributed among women workers in different roles within the carpet industry in Bhadohi district. It highlights the varying income patterns across different job categories. 32.8% of pre-weaver women workers have a monthly income less than 4000. 47.4% fall in the 4001-6000 income bracket. 15.5% fall in the 6001-8000 income bracket. 4.3% have an income above 8000. 4.3% of weaver women workers earn less than 4000. 23.6% fall in the 4001-6000 income bracket. 34.3% fall in the 6001-8000 income bracket. 37.9% have an income above 8000. 37.9% have an income above 8000. 28.7% of finishing workers have a monthly income less than 4000. 52.1% fall in the 4001-6000 income bracket. 16.0% fall in the 6001-8000 income bracket. 3.2% have an income above 8000. When considering all women workers in the carpet industry, 20.3% earn less than 4000. 39.1% fall in the 4001-6000 income bracket. 23.1% fall in the 6001-8000 income bracket. 17.4% have an income above 8000. In Pre weaving and finishing workers both there are less women workers who earned above 8000 Rs. per month because the workers of this group are unskilled or semiskilled and they do not get chance to earn as like weaving workers and they do not get regularly work in a month and work less hour in a day.

#### Monthly saving of women workers int the carpet industry.

**Table 3: Monthly saving of women workers int the carpet industry.**

Women workers	Monthly saving in Rs.					Total
	Nothing	0-500	500-1000	1000-1500	1500 and above	
Pre weaving	6%	45.6%	44.8%	1.7%	2.5%	100%
Weaver	1.4%	17.8%	57.1%	13.5%	10.2%	100%
Finishing worker	8.5%	50%	35%	4.2%	2.3%	100%
Total	4.2%	35.7%	47.2%	7.1%	5.8%	100%

Source: data collected through field survey.

The above table 3 provides insights into the distribution of women workers based on their monthly savings, allowing for a comparison across different job roles. In pre weaver category most common savings range is in the 0-500 Rs. category (45.6%). The second most common savings range is 500-1000 Rs. (44.8%). A small percentage save 1000-1500 Rs. (1.7%), and even fewer save 1500 and above (2.5%). In weaver category the highest percentage of weavers fall into the 500-1000 Rs. category (57.1%). 0-500 Rs. and 1000-1500 Rs. categories also have significant proportions. The smallest percentage falls into the 1500 and above category (10.2%). In finishing workers category, the majority of finishing workers fall into the 0-500 Rs. (50%) and 500-1000 Rs. (35%) categories. Smaller percentages are distributed across higher saving categories.

**Hypothesis 1:**

H0: The marginal propensity to save of women workers related to income and saving pattern in the study area is not low.

H1: The marginal propensity to save of women workers related to income and saving pattern in the study area is low.

The present study analyses the marginal propensity to save for the women workers related to income and saving pattern in the study area of Bhadohi district. In order to measure the MPS of women workers the simple linear regression model has been used. The data for this test has been mentioned above.

The equation for the analysis of Simple regression model is framed as follows:

$$S_i = \alpha + \beta Y_i + U_i$$

Where, S = Saving Y = Income,

The estimated result is  $S = 495.38 + 0.03Y_i$

**Table-5 Regression analysis of income and saving pattern of women workers in the carpet industry.**

Variable	Intercept ( $\alpha$ )	Co efficient ( $\beta$ )	p-value
Saving (x1)	495.38 [127.31] (3.82)	.0284*** [.030] (0.904)	0.000
R2 value	0.016 [419.18]		

Source – author’s computed using SPSS

Note: \*\*\* represent 5 percent level of significant.

Value in parentheses represent ‘t’ value and square brackets represents ‘Standard error’

Above table indicates the results for regression analyses show that the value for the R squared is 0.016, it shows that the independent variables (i.e. saving) accounts for 1.60 per cent change in the Income. The savings is found to have a positive relationship with income of the women worker as shown by coefficient value of 0.0284. This means that suppose their income is 100 then they save only 3 rupees from that, it can be stated that their income is mainly used for consumption purpose. The statistics are relatively weaker but confirm a positive relationship between the savings and income at a significance level. The statistics demonstrate that savings acting a comparatively marginal role in elucidation income of the women workers. The result indicates that the correlation is not strong but it is positively connected.

The p value  $<0.05$  Therefore the null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted. Thus, the researcher concludes that the marginal propensity to save of the women worker in the carpet industry is low as shown in the regression results.

**Conclusion:** The marginal propensity to save of women workers in the carpet industry, concerning their income and saving behaviour, is observed to be low. This indicates that a relatively small proportion of their income is allocated towards savings compared to their overall earnings. Despite earning income from their work in the carpet industry, these women tend to prioritize immediate consumption needs, such as food, housing, education, and medical expenses, over saving for the future. Several factors contribute to this low marginal propensity to save among women workers in the carpet industry. Firstly, the income levels of these workers are often modest, making it challenging to set aside funds for savings after covering essential expenses. Additionally, the irregular nature of employment in the carpet industry, coupled with low wages, may further limit their capacity to save consistently. Furthermore, societal and cultural factors may also influence saving behaviour, with prevailing norms emphasizing immediate consumption or familial obligations over long-term savings.

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