

Leather Businesses in Bengaluru-A Post pandemic Study

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Abstract

Leather goods such as footwear, bags belts and other accessories are in big demand among today's population the craze for fashionable leather goods and accessories has only increased day by day. In Bangalore every shopping area has its stock of leather goods from handmade footwear to bags, jerkins, waistcoat belts and purses. This is one of the main businesses which involves mostly unskilled and semi skilled leather artisans. This leather craft making is mostly unorganized. There are many outlets in (retail) in Bangalore and to understand if this craft actually provided employment and income generation for the rural artisans were the often asked question. The study area chosen was Majestic and Avenue Street in Bangalore. The sample size was 200 and 24 leather retail outlets were selected for simple random sampling. The research gap intends to explore whether these leather ancillary or primary manufacturing and retail outlets are actually employing jobless youth from the deprived classes and if so are they employed in the manufacturing primary units or looking after sales in the retail leather units? What is the scope for the growth projection of the leather businesses in Karnataka given the major scarcities of labor and raw hides? The research methodology used was both primary and secondary data. The data collected data was analyzed using percentage method. The findings have indicated that all the retail outlets have employed majority youth from socially depressed classes with rural background with some of the collected samples being handicapped. Their earnings were 100 Rs to Rs.200 rupees per day. In this leather business it has been noticed that the demand for raw hides has outstripped the supply though there is a huge demand for leather made handbag shoes footwear most of the time it is being seen due to the fast fluctuating markets and loss of buildings used for tanning and dyeing leather this industry has slowly started diminishing. never returned. The leather industry has incurred huge losses especially in Bangalore as tough laws and the repeated incurrence of losses contributed in driving the workers out of work and post pandemic since June 2022 they were there seen to be struggling with loss of work and loss of sustenance as Bangalore tanneries employed a huge migrant workforce who travelled back to their native states during the pandemic. The main law which gave a deathblow to leather businesses and tannery and tanning industries was the Karnataka Anti cow-Slaughter Legislation June 2020.

Keywords: leather goods, Tanneries, unorganized sector, micro units or primary units, depressed classes.

1. Introduction

The importance of leather businesses was first developed by Sir M. Vishweshwarraya in Karnataka. The main source of employment and income generation for depressed classes and a leather artisans were leather factories that were the main source of employment and income generation for these leather artisans from the marginalized sections of the society. The main motive of the study was to know about the labor shortages and labor participation rates in work whether it was increasing or decreasing? The main limitations of the study showed us that the June 2020 Act of anti slaughter of bovine Act passed by the Karnataka government has brought about the cessation of activities in tanning industries and sent the labor artisans already unorganized out of jobs and they

were mostly unskilled or semi skilled labor artisans The leather businesses taken for the study were belonging to cottage or the micro enterprises during the post lockdown led to the decrease in the production or tanning activities and the migration of native labor to their native villages which has led to the fall in the production of leather and shortage of leather production and leather businesses flipped backwards. This has proved yeah see I know to be the last to cog in the wheel of the leather practice the survey was done for the study in the two selected areas of Majestic where most of the leather retail outlets and businesses are situated and even in Avenue Street. which is known as the business hub of Bangalore.

The total number of samples taken was 200 from the two sampled areas of majestic 100 samples and Avenue road 100 samples were taken from 24 leather business outlets 12 were based in majestic and the remaining 12. leather outlets were based in avenue Rd. The data analyzed by means of the percentage method showed us that the major shortcomings was the father labor for the letter businesses to take a nosedive was scarcity of migrant labour and local labour closing down many tanning industries in Bangalore east passage of the oh auntie slaughter act in June 2020 and the reduction of row hides 4 tanning industries and garment factories stitching and producing lesser leather garments it's because of these major shortcomings the ladder of businesses have reduced their profit margin post March 2022 that is post lockdown season

2.Review of Literature

1.RaggyMudde (2015) In his article 'Leather industry in Karnataka' spoke of the challenges that threatened the leather industry -was a large portion of the industry was still unorganized state due to low finances for leather production. The major limitations were most of the investors were ignorant about international quality standards and reduction of tanning activities in the state due to economic and environmental reasons that has adversely impacted the leather industry. The unavailability of the raw material (finished leather) on time was another problem. The main objective was with the demand for leather goods rising in the international and domestic market it became imperative to ensure the growth of the leather industry as it was a major foreign exchange earner. . To concludeas the state government waspaying special attention for the growth of the industry, the future prospects looks bright for the leather industry in Karnataka.

3.Research Gap

The research gap intends to explore whether these leather ancillary or primary manufacturing and retail outlets are actually employing jobless youth from the deprived classes and if so are they employed in the manufacturing primary units or looking after sales in the retail leather units? What is the scope for the growth projection of the leather businesses in Karnataka given the major scarcities of labor and raw hides?

4.Research Methodology

The data used in this study of leather businesses is both primary as well as secondary data primary data consisted of framing a questionnaire regarding the labor participation ratio income generation and the current migrant labor problem coupled with unemployment and steady fall in the production of led the goods simple random sampling was used as a sampling technique and totally 150 samples were gathered from 10 business leather business outlets from majestic area and Avenue. Street in Bangalore percentage method was used to analyze the collected data secondary data was collected from previously published articles and journals related to leather businesses in India and Karnataka.

5. Data analysis and Interpretation

Table -1A-to find out the percentage of skilled,semi skilled and unskilled artisans employed in leather units in Bengaluru.

Sl.no.	Sampled areas	No. of sampled respondents	Sampled leather businesses	Unskilled artisans	Semi-skilled artisans	Skilled artisans
1	Majestic	100	12	50%	30%	20%
2	Avenue road	100	12	50%	30%	20%
Total areas	02 areas	200	24	90%	70%	50%
Field Survey June 2023						

Table -1-B-Employees belonging to depressed classes are employed in greater numbers in Manufacturing units and retail businesses.

Sl.no.	Sampled areas	No. of sampled respondents	Sampled leather business salesoutlets	Sampled manufacturing units (Leather garments and hosiery)	Sampled respondents belonging to depressed classes	Sampled respondents belonging to other groups
1	Majestic	100	12	12	70%	30%
2	Avenue road	100	12	12	75%	25%
Total	02	200	24	24	72.5%	27.5%
Field survey June 2023						

The analyzed table above shows us that more than 70% of the employees in leather sales outlets and manufacturing units (leather garments factories) belong to deprived classes. This is so because the leather industries are mainly started by the social welfare department in Karnataka to provide employment to those artisans from the deprived and oppressed classes. Almost all the artisans are illiterate or semi skilled and they were totally unorganized. In Bangalore ‘s tanneries it has been observed that half the employees are migrant workers from neighboring states.

Table-2-Causes for the fall in leather production.

Sl.no.	Sampled areas	Sampled no.of respondents	Sampled businesses	High prices of leather	Closure of many tanneries in Bangalore	Scarcity of labour post pandemic	Fall in amount of raw hides
1	Majestic	100	12	20%	30%	30%	20%
2	Avenue road	100	12	10%	30%	30%	30%
02		200	24				
Field Survey June 2023							

A second table has shown us that post pandemic most of the migrant workers have not returned back to the tanneries in Bangalore from the neighboring states. This has seriously handicapped the tanning industries and the anti slaughter bill enacted by the Karnataka government in June 2020 has dealt a death blow to many of these standing industries and the workers who have lost their sustenance and have returned back to their villages.

6. Suggestions

1. When the sources of leather has been exhausted and many law enactments have taken place which has curbed the production of raw hides production and local procurement of rawhides used in the tanning industries it is better the workers opt for sheepskin, goatskin, pigskin crocodile, snake skins and other kind of hides to use for the preparing the leather products.

2. Emergence of artificial leather also called as synthetic or imitation leather which has substituted for leather in upholstery, clothing, footwear and other uses Artificial leather is also known as leatherette faux leather vegan leather and P U leather .The faux leather is made-up of plastic base where then they are treated with wax dye or polyurethane and this creates the color and texture of real leather. But it is neither anti puncture nor anti resistant and faux leather is not as strong and durable as real leather.

Limitations of the study

The main limitation is the areas selected for the study was well selected for sampling purposes was Majestic and Avenue Road the major commercial areas of Bangalore while many other commercial areas could not be sampled so this is the basic limitation of the study due to time constraint.

7. Conclusion

It has been corroborated that post pandemic has been a very lean period for the leather outlets in Bengaluru and it has dealt a very hard blow to the leather artisans because the migrant workers who are working in the tanneries of Bangalore have all left for their native places in the neighboring States and other places of Karnataka and they never returned. the availability of local labor where very less and had to work for very long hours in the tanneries and the other main reason was the enactment of the anti cow slaughter bill in 2020 June by the Karnataka government which does not permit the slaughter of bovine animals which was the mainstay of the leather business and mainstay of the tanneries in Bangalore with the their main raw material that is animal hides from goats pigs sheep and crocodiles dwindling and becoming lesser in number that too in India which has the highest population of cattle in the world which has become a major drawback. This has lead to the fall of leather production initially but with a growing international and domestic demand it has become a major source of foreign exchange earner thus prompting the government to find ways and means of breathing fresh investment into the leather businesses.

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