

Press Release
22nd July, 2010

The National Commission for Women had sponsored a study on the 'Impact of Suicides on families and Women in Handloom and Powerloom Sectors in Andhra Pradesh'. The study was conducted by an NGO Noble Social and Educational Society, Tirupati, A.P. and the findings were presented before the officers of NCW today.

The main conclusions and recommendations of the study conducted with a sample of 200 families from various regions of Andhra Pradesh are enclosed.

Commending on the result of the study Chairperson, NCW, Dr. Girija Vyas said that the NCW is seriously concerned about reports of suicide by weavers in Andhra Pradesh & that is why we decided to have an in depth study made. The study has highlighted that there is an immediate need to identify the weaving families which are going through economic crisis and help them both financially and employment wise to put an end to the suicides. There is also need for counseling, skill development, training and above all need to get the children back to school so that after the suicide the future of the children is not adversely affected. She will write to the Textile Minister as well as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to review the welfare schemes so that there is real improvement in the lot of the weaving community not only in Andhra Pradesh but throughout India. Weavers are spread in many parts of our country and in their hands lies a vast repository of skill and culture associated with Indian fabrics. We must preserve this precious heritage at all costs.

Sd/-
(Kareena B. Thengamam)
Public Relation Officer