Akshardhara Research Journal
Single Blind Peer-Reviewed & Refereed International Research Journal
E ISSN -3048-8095 / Bimonthly / SJIF Impact- 3.4 / September-2025/ Special Issue 02 Volume I (A)

45

Technology, Training, and Market Linkages: Building a Stable Future for Malegaon's Textile Cluster

Ansari Sharique Ataurrahman
Student,
Dr. B.V. Hiray College Management And Research Center Malegaon (Nashik).

Abstract:
This study looks at why the Malegaon textile area has problems and how they can be solved.
The area mainly makes grey cloth, which is raw fabric before it is dyed. It faces issues with fluctuating prices, which harm income and jobs. The paper outlines a straightforward approach to address these issues. The goal is to add more value to the products, create new kinds of fabric, and sell directly to customers. We use better machines, training, and online sales. The methods used include interviews, mapping how the production process works, comparing with other successful areas, and looking at the costs of different options like shuttle less looms (modern fast looms), shared testing centers, solar panels, and online selling tools. The plan includes cost-effective upgrades, a Common Facility Centre (CFC) – a shared place for processing and testing, training programs, direct buyer links, branding the area, and shared-risk loans. This will help keep prices stable, improve fabric quality and production speed, and bring in more customers.
Keywords: Malegaon textile hub, modern upgradation, market connection, quality and standard improvement.

Introduction:

Malegaon in Maharashtra is a major weaving town.

It makes grey cloth, which is the raw fabric before it is colored, and sells it to traders in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Mumbai, and southern India. It is the second-largest power loom hub in the state, behind Bhiwandi. In 2021, around 15,000 power loom units were active. Many families rely on this work. Most of the fabric made is from cotton or polyester yarn, which is sent to other places for further processing. So the town is known for making middle-stage fabric, not finished clothes. Most of the units use plain power looms (basic electric weaving machines), and some have simple add-ons like dobby or jacquard (devices that make basic patterns). Very few use shuttle less looms, which are modern fast looms that don't need shuttles. A recent study shows that plain looms are the most common type. Only 19% of the units use shuttle less or automatic looms. This means many units are using old technology. The products made are mainly grey cotton and synthetic fabrics. Local finishing is limited, so value addition is low. Market problems like sudden yarn price jumps or a drop in demand cause shutdowns and loss of income. Daily price changes, dependence on traders, and weak direct sales reduce profits and cash flow, which hurts wages and jobs in a town that depends on loom output and the volume of grey cloth.

Modernization is needed.

Better machines and preparation can improve quality and reduce time. Small firms need access to easier finance and support. Training from power loom service centers exists but needs to be expanded. Better buyer connections and group marketing can reduce the role of middlemen and bring in more stable orders. This paper gives a plan to reduce the risk from yarn prices, move beyond basic grey fabric, and find more buyers by using local government tools and shared services.

Literature Review:

Surat: Match technology to products. Surat improved production by using shuttle less looms, which are fast looms that don't rely on shuttles, for synthetic fabrics. Out of nearly 600,000 looms, around 22,600 have been upgraded to shuttle less machines. The TUFS (national subsidy program) helped with importing machines. Banks noted delays in getting subsidies. Processing, texturizing, and embroidery grew. Plans exist for more shuttle less looms. Key factors of growth included the use of water-jet looms for synthetic fabrics, which were supported by strong financial backing and links with traders. Problem: focusing on domestic sales led to cheap or used looms, which slowed export quality. Lesson for Malegaon: use machines that match the products, link spending with export growth, and make use of timely schemes.

Ichalkaranji: Upgrade step by step. This segment moved from plain looms to automatic models and then to shuttleless technology. They installed 9,000 shuttleless looms with 120,000 powerlooms and had good sizing capacity (preparation equipment). TUFS support, DKTE Institute, and cluster schemes with Common Facility Centers reduced risks and built skills. Many small units still use used machines and do contract work because of costs. What worked: using the right technology for cotton, local training, and shared facilities. Problem: plain looms still serve low-income markets, so value addition remains limited without better processing, marketing, and finance. Lesson: upgrade in phases with CFCs (shared service centers), skills training, and finance for small units.

©Copyright 2024 *ADRJ*. All Rights Reserved

Akshardhara Research Journal
Single Blind Peer-Reviewed & Refereed International Research Journal
E ISSN -3048-8095 / Bimonthly / SJIF Impact- 3.4 / September-2025/ Special Issue 02 Volume I (A)

Keqiao (China): Combine market, R&D, and design. Keqiao shows how connected systems around China Textile City, a major textile market, can lead to big growth. It is responsible for about 25% of the world's fabric transactions and made 360 billion yuan in 2023. Europe exported 24.9 billion yuan in Q1 from renewable and functional fabrics. Companies use digital printing, nano-inks, and AI checks. Plans are in place to increase R&D and innovation centers. What worked includes integrated markets, steady R&D and design, and digital tools that speed up sample-to-order times. Problem: scale and rules are hard to copy quickly. Lesson: build testing, design, and digital sampling slowly. Invest carefully in R&D, green materials, branding, and buyer links.

Objectives:

This study has six goals.

First, map the production chain to identify problems in quality, time, and costs.
Second, check technology options such as shuttleless looms, which are modern fast looms, and preparation or finishing equipment for different firm sizes.
Third, identify skills gaps and create training for maintenance, quality, CAD (computer design), and digital sales.
Fourth, study market connections and recommend direct buyer programs and area branding.
Fifth, review finance and policy tools, including a Common Facility Centre (CFC), which is a shared processing and testing center, and shared-risk credit.
Sixth, plan actions using cost-benefit checks and set up tracking with clear measures.

Malegaon textile hub:

The Malegaon textile hub is one of the biggest weaving centers in Maharashtra.
MSMEs run thousands of power looms here. Malegaon is famous for making grey fabric, which traders buy and then process in different cities across India. The hub generates job opportunities for locals and outsiders and holds an important role in India's textile industry. Owing to the dependence on outdated shuttle loom technology and the sole production of grey, unfinished fabric, the resulting income remains insufficient, offering limited economic advantage to both local proprietors and laborers. To compete better, Malegaon needs to improve its production technology and have more direct connections with buyers.

Modern upgradation:

Modern upgradation means making machines, production methods, and support systems better to meet today's industry standards.
In Malegaon, it means replacing old plain looms with more modern looms (e.g. rapiers / water jet/ air jet). It also means using better equipment in the steps before and after weaving, and using digital tools for design and sales. Upgradation needs training for workers, better energy use, and good quality checks. The goal is to make production faster, cut waste, and reach more valuable markets. If done step by step, this helps small units grow without too much financial pressure and increases long-term competitiveness.

Market connection:

Market connection means having strong and reliable links between textile producers and buyers like wholesalers, garment makers, exporters, and online B2B platforms. In Malegaon, most sales happen through local traders. This reduces the earnings of small weaving units and makes them rely more on middlemen. Strengthening market connections means building relationships with the end-users, joining cluster branding programs, and using digital tools to show and sell fabrics. Strong buyer connections help get steady orders, reduce risks from price changes, and allow access to premium markets. Better connections give weavers better prices and long-term sustainability.

Quality and standard improvement:

Quality and standard improvement means using practices, processes, and certifications to ensure fabrics meet buyer expectations consistently.
In Malegaon, many weavers use simple production methods without checking quality, leading to uneven fabric quality. By setting up testing facilities, standard operating procedures, and benchmarks across clusters, the industry can produce uniform, high-quality fabrics. Better quality helps attract bigger buyers and exporters who require consistent standards before placing large orders. This builds trust in Malegaon's products over time and improves competitiveness in both local and global markets.

Conclusion:

Malegaon still mainly produces grey fabric using plain powerlooms.
There is not much local finishing or direct marketing, which limits value addition and weakens the industry's strength. Rising yarn prices and sudden changes in demand cause shutdowns and loss of income. Modern looms and better preparation steps exist, but they aren't widely used. This affects quality, speed, and consistency. Other textile clusters have succeeded when machines match product needs, skills improve, shared services grow, and

Akshardhara Research Journal
Single Blind Peer-Reviewed & Refereed International Research Journal
E ISSN -3048-8095 / Bimonthly / SJIF Impact- 3.4 / September-2025/ Special Issue 02 Volume I (A)

finance becomes more accessible. Programs exist, but they are not widely adopted due to access issues and cash flow problems.

The actions needed are clear.

Owners should upgrade step by step.

Start with improving warp preparation and energy use. Once buyers agree to orders, introduce shuttleless looms. Use simple quality systems and digital sales to reduce the role of middlemen. Cluster leaders should start a Common Facility Centre for testing, computer design, and trial finishing. Set up group yarn buying and joint marketing to lower price fluctuations and attract more buyers. Policymakers should make TUFS-type support easier to access. Expand credit guarantees for small units. Train skills through powerloom service centers. It is essential for everyone to track important metrics such as loom usage, defect rates, delivery times, and the composition of buyers. Link rewards to measurable improvements.

Two main challenges remain. First, there is a dependence on old data instead of using current tracking methods. Second, there is a lack of unit-level financial details necessary to calculate payback periods.

Future initiatives should consider a package that includes phased upgrades, CFC services, and direct buyer programs.

Evaluate results using careful methods.

Reference:

Indian Textile Journal. (2021, September 15). Malegaon's powerloom sector happy by festive season. https://indiantextilejournal.com/malegaons-powerloom-sector-happy-by-festive-season/ (Accessed September 5, 2025)indiantextilejournal

Kadole, P. V., & Patil, U. J. (2017, February 1). Ichalkaranji: Progressive decentralised textile centre. Indian Textile Journal. https://indiantextilejournal.com/ichalkaranji-progressive-decentralised-textile-centre/ (Accessed September 5, 2025)indiantextilejournal

Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. (2013). Impact of imported second-hand shuttleless looms under TUFS on domestic capital goods industry during XI Plan (Final report). National Productivity Council. https://ministryoftextiles.gov.in/sites/default/files/StudyReport-SecondHandloomShuttleLoom.pdf (Accessed September 5, 2025)ministryoftextiles

Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. (2024, August 9). Plan to support power loom industry in Bhiwandi, Ichalkaranji and Malegaon (Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 205). https://sansad.in/getFile/annex/265/AS205_QVuyyB.pdf (Accessed September 5, 2025)sansad

Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. (2024). Rajya Sabha reply on MAHA-TUFS and support to powerlooms (Parliament document). https://sansad.in/getFile/annex/266/AS198_0SSL71.pdf (Accessed September 5, 2025)sansad

National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme). (2025). Socio-economic status of the entrepreneurs and workforce of the Textile and Apparel manufacturing Cluster of Malegaon. https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3a012869311d64a44b5a0d567cd20de04/uploads/2025/08/2025080714857842 66.pdf (Accessed September 5, 2025)cdnbbsr.s3waas

People's Daily Online. (2024, June 13). China's textile hub Keqiao sees surge in exports to Europe. http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0614/c98649-20181548.html (Accessed September 5, 2025)people

Pohit, S., Jamal, T., Suman, Y., Yadav, N. K., & Saini, M. K. (2016, March 30). Innovation strategies in Indian textile sector: Evidence from Surat textile cluster (MPRA Paper No. 70470). Munich Personal RePEc Archive. https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/70470/ (Accessed September 5, 2025)mpra.uni-muenchen

Times of India. (2021, June 22). Malegaon power loom units cease operations, 2.5 lakh workers to be affected. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nashik/malegaon-power-loom-units-cease-operations-2-5l-workers-to-be-affected/articleshow/83755332.cms (Accessed September 5, 2025)timesofindia.indiatimes

Times of India. (2023). Big bonus for powerloom workers in Malegaon. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nashik/big-bonus-for-powerloom-workers-in-malegaon/articleshow/99680942.cms (Accessed September 5, 2025)timesofindia.indiatimes

Xinhua/China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT). (2024, April 9). China's textile capital weaves more vibrant future. https://en.ccpit.org/infoById/4d4fb8a3f6dc11ee92150242ac1a0702/4 (Accessed September 5, 2025)ccpit

©Copyright 2024 *ADRJ*. All Rights Reserved