

## **ASSESSING LIDCAP'S IMPACT ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN ANDHRA PRADESH: A CASE STUDY OF THE LEATHER INDUSTRY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This paper, titled "Assessing LIDCAP's Impact on Economic Conditions of Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh: A Case Study of the Leather Industry" by Prof. B. Sudhakar Reddy, presents a comprehensive analysis of the Leather Industries Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Ltd (LIDCAP) and its role in promoting and developing the leather industry in the state. The study examines various aspects, including the socio-economic characteristics of the surveyed participants, the contributions of LIDCAP to the advancement of the leather industry, initiatives aimed at fostering self-employment opportunities among Scheduled Castes (SCs), and the influence of LIDCAP on the living conditions of SCs.

The research findings provide insights into the challenges and opportunities within the leather industry in Andhra Pradesh. The paper discusses issues related to education, marital status, housing, occupational distribution, and sources of finance among SCs in the leather industry. It also highlights the role of LIDCAP in providing financial assistance and subsidies, as well as the level of satisfaction among beneficiaries. The study sheds light on the strengths and weaknesses of the leather industry in the region and proposes effective strategies for policy enhancement to improve the socio-economic status of SCs. This research holds significance for the leather production, manufacturing of leather goods, export of leather products, and the generation of employment opportunities in Andhra Pradesh.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Andhra Pradesh, home to a significant livestock population of 36 million, plays a crucial role in India's production of hides and skins. Despite this abundant supply of raw materials, the tanning and finishing sectors in the state have yet to reach their full potential in effectively harnessing these resources. A considerable portion of the raw materials from Andhra Pradesh is currently sent to other states like Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Presently, the state hosts around 30 tanning units, each with limited tanning and processing capacities.

In contrast to other states that have experienced substantial growth in their leather industries over the past five decades, Andhra Pradesh has not fully capitalized on its raw material assets to foster planned industry growth. Recognizing this untapped potential, the Government of Andhra Pradesh established the Leather Industries Development Corporation (LIDCAP) to promote and develop the leather industry within the state.

LIDCAP, in alignment with its objectives, has formulated a comprehensive Leather Policy aimed at propelling the development of the leather industry in Andhra Pradesh. This policy places significant emphasis on improving

infrastructure, addressing training requirements, establishing a micro-financing network, and enhancing marketing frameworks, among other key areas.

As part of this Leather Policy, LIDCAP is strategically planning the establishment of 6 mega, 16 medium, and 72 mini leather parks across various districts in Andhra Pradesh. The mini parks, envisioned for almost every district, will primarily focus on the initial tanning process of raw hides, while the medium parks will facilitate the production of finished leather and intermediates. The mega parks, on the other hand, will focus on producing complete products with an export orientation. LIDCAP has also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) to support the development of these parks.

In the post-independence era, the government of Andhra Pradesh established a "Leather Board" to oversee the growth of the leather industry in the state. This board received government funding and undertook welfare activities for economically disadvantaged individuals involved in the leather industry. Over time, concerns arose regarding the effectiveness of the board's activities, prompting the government to take decisive action. As a result, the Leather Industries Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Ltd (LIDCAP) was established on September 1, 1975. This transition involved transferring four key stock units, including Hyderabad Tanneries, Guntakal Tanneries, Model Leather Goods Manufacturing Unit in Vijayawada, and Utility Leather Goods Centre in Musheerabad, Hyderabad. It also included the transfer of staff working within these units and their assets.

Additionally, government employees who had been on deputation with LIDCAP since 1974 have retired upon reaching superannuation. Furthermore, several leather technologists were deputed from the Commissioner of Industries to contribute their expertise to LIDCAP's mission.

The current research endeavour aims to shed light on the comprehensive performance of LIDCAP as a promotional and financial entity within the leather industry of Andhra Pradesh. This study has delved into key research inquiries: How has the corporation fostered entrepreneurship in Andhra Pradesh, and to what extent has it provided financial, promotional, and marketing support to leather entrepreneurs? LIDCAP plays a pivotal role in the advancement of the leather industry in Andhra Pradesh. The corporation has executed various schemes and extended financial assistance to empower marginalized individuals in initiating their ventures, fostering self-employment, and enhancing their quality of life.

This research holds significant relevance in the contemporary landscape, considering its implications for leather production, the manufacturing of leather goods, the export of leather products, and the generation of employment opportunities in Andhra Pradesh. The researcher has undertaken a critical examination of the pivotal role of promotion within the leather industry in Andhra Pradesh, a subject that has received limited attention from scholars in the

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Subbarama Naidu (2000) emphasized the significance of the Indian leather industry in the 21st century. He highlighted its economic importance, ranking it as the fourth major export commodity in India, contributing 8% to foreign exchange earnings, and providing employment opportunities, especially for economically disadvantaged individuals.

Kumar and Yadav (2002) conducted a study on labour welfare schemes in sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh. Their research revealed low worker satisfaction with welfare schemes, both in state government and private sector sugar factories, with state government factories having lower satisfaction levels.

Vaithegi (2007) explored the decentralized production system in the leather footwear industry in South India. She found that this industry subcontracted certain operations to informal small units and home-based workers, resulting in labour market flexibility. The Ambur leather footwear industry was highlighted as a mechanized and assembly-line production system.

Suresh and Padmavathi (2017) discussed the performance of the leather industry in Andhra Pradesh, focusing on human resource development. They elaborated on the Integrated Development of Leather Scheme (IDLS), emphasizing skill development and training. The paper highlighted the success of the scheme in training and placing unemployed individuals in the leather sector.

Vijaya Lakshmi & Milcah Paul (2019) examined the socio-economic condition of tribal communities in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. They identified various challenges faced by these communities, including isolation, lack of basic necessities, education, and access to resources. The paper discussed government welfare schemes aimed at improving the socio-economic status of these tribal communities in both states.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To analyze the socio-economic characteristics of the survey participants.
2. To examine the contributions of LIDCAP in the advancement of the leather industry in Andhra Pradesh.
3. To assess the initiatives undertaken by LIDCAP in fostering self-employment opportunities among individuals from Scheduled Castes (SCs).
4. To evaluate the influence of LIDCAP on the living conditions of SCs within the sampled population.
5. To propose effective strategies to fortify policies geared towards the welfare of Scheduled Castes.

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The design of the study is exploratory and explanatory. As per the annual report of LIDCAP, there were 259 from Anantapuram District and 350 from Hyderabad District and 270 from Vijayawada Scheduled Caste small entrepreneurs/beneficiaries of schemes of LIDCAP. Out of 879 beneficiaries 375 (42.66%) sample beneficiaries were selected as sample respondents on the basis of Stratified Random Sampling

### **ANALYSIS OF THE DATA**

#### **Gender-wise distribution of respondents**

**Table 1: Gender-Wise Distribution of Respondents**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Guntakal</b>	<b>Vijayawada</b>	<b>Hyderabad</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	93	95	97	285	76
Female	32	30	28	90	24
Total	125	125	125	375	100

Table-1 shows the gender-wise distribution of respondents, among 375 respondents from Guntakal, Vijayawada and Hyderabad regions, the majority 76% of them are male and 24% of them are female respondents. There are 93% are from

Guntakal, 95% from Vijayawada and 97% male respondents from Hyderabad.

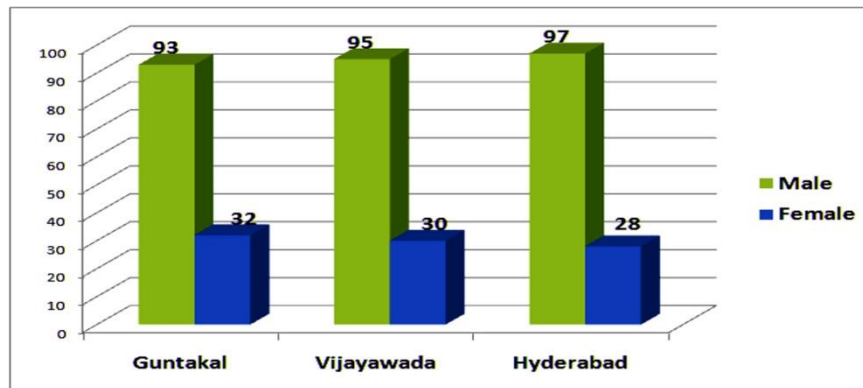


Figure.1: Gender-Wise Distribution of Respondents

#### Sub-castes of Scheduled Caste-wise

Table 2: Caste-Wise (SC) Distribution of Respondents

S.No.	SC Caste	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1	Adi Andhra	14	3	17	4.53
2	Chamar	8	4	12	3.20
3	Chhimbe	8	2	10	2.67
4	Dakkal	7	2	9	2.40
5	Jaggali	10	2	12	3.20
6	Madiga	93	34	127	33.87
7	Mala	47	19	66	17.60
8	Manne	9	2	11	2.93
9	Matangi	9	2	11	2.93
10	Mochi	63	16	79	21.07
11	Samagara	9	2	11	2.93
12	Samban	8	2	10	2.67
	Total	285	90	375	100

Table-2 illustrates the sub-caste of Scheduled Caste -wise respondents, there are number of sub-castes under Scheduled Caste, researcher taken 12 major sub-castes. Among 375 respondents, the majority 33.87% of them belongs to madiga, 21.07% are from mocha, 17.60% are from mala, 4.53% are from adi andhra, 3.2% are from chamar and jaggali, 2.93% are from manne, matangi and samagara, and remaining 2.67% respondents are from chhimbe, dakkal, samban castes.

**Age-wise**

**Table-3: Age-Wise Distribution of Respondents**

S.No.	Age	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1	21-30	87	32	119	31.73
2	31-40	92	23	115	30.67
3	41-50	68	23	91	24.27
4	51-60	30	8	38	10.13
5	> 60	8	4	12	3.2
	Total	285	90	375	100

Table-3: shows the age-wise distribution of respondents, majority 31.73% of them are age between 21-30 years young adults, 30.67% of them 31-40 years, 24.27% of them 41-50 years, 10.13% of them 51-60 years, and very few 3.2% of the respondents are above 60 years.

**Education-wise Distribution of the Respondents**

Education is the most important variable which helps to understand the development of any community or working group. Below table shows the educational attainments of the leather artisans in Andhra Pradesh. With all the educational facilities in the rural as well urban area and special financial assistance available to the members of the scheduled castes, it was observed that about one half of the respondents are illiterate.

**Table-4: Education-wise distribution of the respondents**

S.No.	Education	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1	Illiterate	79	28	107	28.53
2	Below I-V	107	37	144	38.40
3	VI-X	61	15	76	20.27
4	Intermediate & above	38	10	48	12.80
	Total	285	90	375	100

Table-4 reveals the education-wise distribution of the respondents, highest 38.40% of them are below I-V class, followed by 28.53% of them are Illiterates, 20.27% of them are VI-X class, and 12.80% of the respondents are Intermediate and above degree education.

**Marital Status**

**Table-5: Marital Status**

S.No.	Marital Status	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1	Married	227	34	261	69.60

2	Un-married	27	14	41	10.93
3	Divorced	31	21	52	13.87
4	Widowed	0	21	21	5.60
	Total	285	90	375	100

Table-5 shows the marital status of the respondents, among 375 there are 69.60% of the respondents are married, 13.87% of them divorced, 10.93% of them are un-married and only 5.60% of the respondents are widowed.

### Type of Families

**Table-6: Type of Family**

Place	Joint Family	Nuclear Family
Guntakal	17(29.82%)	108(33.96%)
Vijayawada	21(36.84%)	104(32.70%)
Hyderabad	19(33.33%)	106(33.33%)
Total	57(100%)	318 (100%)

Table-6 shows the type of family they living in the society. The majority 108(33.96%) of them are living as nuclear family from Guntakal, 32.72% from Vijayawada and 33.33% from Hyderabad only 17.82% of them living with joint family from Guntakal, 21(36.84%) from Vijayawada and 19(33.33%) from Hyderabad.

### Occupation-wise respondents

**Table-7: Occupation-wise Respondents**

S.No.	Occupation	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1	Footwear manufacturing	189	68	257	68.53
2	Agriculture	37	12	49	13.07
3	Employee	27	5	32	8.53
4	Others	32	5	37	9.87
	Total	285	90	375	100

Table-7 shows the occupation-wise distribution of respondents, majority 68.53% of them footwear manufacturing, 13.07% of them are agriculture, 8.53% of them employees and 9.87% of the respondents are other occupation.

### Type of Living House

**Table-8 Living House**

Type of house	Place			Total	Percentage
	Guntakal	Vijayawada	Hyderabad		
Hut	6	5	3	14	3.73
Tiled	66	71	54	191	50.93
Pucca House	53	49	68	170	45.33
Total	125	125	125	375	100

Table-8 shows the living house of leather industry, majority 50.93% of them living in tiled house, 45.33% of them are living in Pucca house, and only 3.73% of them are living in huts.

### House Hold Assets at Home

**Table-9 House Hold Assets**

Assets	Place			Total	Percentage
	Guntakal	Vijayawada	Hyderabad		
Radio/Transistor	120	121	124	365	12.31
Television	121	123	124	368	12.42
Mobile phone	123	124	124	371	12.52
Bicycle	80	84	92	256	8.64
Two wheeler	74	82	102	258	8.70
Fridge & Fan	120	123	124	367	12.38
Mixer	98	101	100	299	10.09
Grinder	98	92	102	292	9.85
Gold jewels	26	48	81	155	5.23
Others	40	94	99	233	7.86
Total	900	992	1072	2964	100

(Respondents multiple answers)

Table-9 illustrates the house hold assets of leather industry families of Guntakal, Vijayawada and Hyderabad. The majority 12.52% of the respondents said that asset of mobile phone, followed by 12.42% of them said Television, 12.38% of them said fridge & fan, 12.31% of them said Radio/Transistor, 10.09% of them said Mixer, 9.85% of them said grinder, 8.70% of them said two wheeler, 8.64% of them said bicycle, 7.86% of them said others assets, and few 5.23% of them said that they have gold jewels, it indicates that poor economic conditions of SC casts of leather industry of Andhra Pradesh.

**Age of the unit****Table-10: Age of the unit**

S.No.	Age of the Unit	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	1-2 years	120	32.00
2	3-4 years	97	25.87
3	5-6 years	62	16.53
4	7-9 years	30	8.00
5	10-11 years	27	7.20
6	12-13 years	22	5.87
7	14-15 years	9	2.40
8	Above 16 years	8	2.13
	Total	375	100

Number of the people started LIDCAP leather business years together and it measured as age of the unit and presented in table-10 among 375 respondents, 32% of them started 1-2 years ago, 25.87% started 3.4 years ago, 16.53% 5-6 years ago, 8% 7-9 years, 7.20% 10-11 years ago, 5.87% 12-13 years ago, 2.40% of them started 14-15 years ago and 2.13% of them started more than 16 years ago.

**Acquisition of Unit****Table-11 Acquisition of Unit**

Place	Livelihood	Hereditary	Business	Total
Guntakal	73(28.97%)	27(44.26%)	25(40.32%)	125
Vijayawada	92(36.51%)	15(24.59%)	18(29.03%)	125
Hyderabad	87(34.52%)	19(31.15%)	19(30.65%)	125
Total	252 (67.2%)	61(16.27%)	62(16.53%)	375

Table-11 illustrates the acquisition of units at Guntakal, Vijayawada and Hyderabad, Majority 92(36.51%) % of them are livelihood units from Vijayawada, 27(44.26%) of them are hereditary and 25(40.32%) of the respondents are business. From Guntakal. When compare to livelihood acquisition of units among Guntakal and Hyderabad 5.55% higher and the chi-square result is not significant at  $p < 0.05$  level



### Nature of unit

**Table-12: Nature of Unit**

Nature of Unit	Place			Total	Percentage
	Guntakal	Vijayawada	Hyderabad		
Registered	121	119	119	359	95.73
Unregistered	4	6	6	16	4.27
Total	125	125	125	375	100

Table-12 shows the nature of unit, out of 375 respondents the majority 359(95.73%) are registered units and only 16(4.27%) of the expressed they are not registered from Guntakal, Vijayawada and Hyderabad.

### Status of units

**Table-13: Status of Units**

Nature of Unit	Place			Total	Percentage
	Guntakal	Vijayawada	Hyderabad		
Household Unit	118	114	116	348	92.80
Household Workshop	7	11	9	27	7.20
Total	125	125	125	375	100

Table-13 shows the status of unit, there are two type of units that household units and household workshops in Guntakal, Vijayawada and Hyderabad LIDCAP survey. The majority 348(92.80%) units are household units and very few 27(7.20%) are household workshops.

### Varieties of Footwear

**Table-14: Varieties of Footwear**

Footwear	Place			Total	Percentage
	Guntakal	Vijayawada	Hyderabad		
Banto	31	30	35	96	25.60
Sandals	33	38	36	107	28.53
Chappals	50	44	40	134	35.73
Boot	11	13	14	38	10.13
Total	125	125	125	375	100

Table-14 shows the varieties of footwear they are manufacturing in Guntakal, Vijayawada and Hyderabad. The majority 134(35.73%) of them manufacturing chappals, following 107(28.53%) of them sandals, 96(25.60%) of them manufacturing banto and only 38(10.13%) of them manufacturing boots.

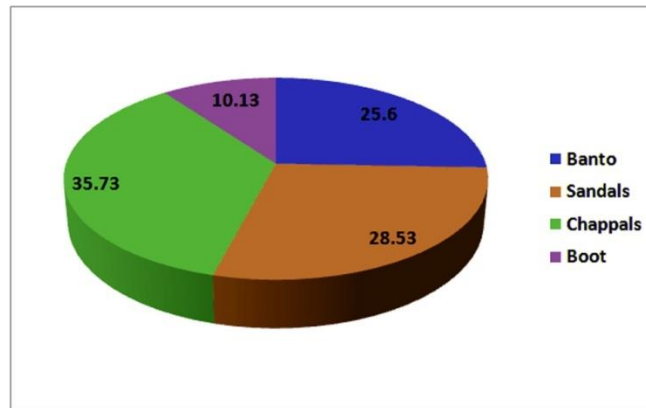


Figure-2: Varieties of Footwear

### Type of Manufacturing

Table-15: Type of Manufacturing

Manufacturing	Place			Total	Percentage
	Guntakal	Vijayawada	Hyderabad		
Pasting	48	53	57	158	42.13
Stitching	77	72	68	217	57.87
Total	125	125	125	375	100

Table-15 shows the type of manufacturing, majority 217(57.87%) of them manufacturing by stitching, and 158(42.13%) of them manufacturing by pasting work in Guntakal, Vijayawada and Hyderabad.

### Sources of Labour

Table-16: Sources of Labour

Source	Place			Total	Percentage
	Guntakal	Vijayawada	Hyderabad		
Own labour	92	93	91	275	73.33
Hired labour	9	10	9	28	7.47
Both	24	22	25	71	18.93
Total	125	125	125	375	100

Researchers asked to the respondents what is sources of labour, respondents replied the about their sources of labour and it

is recorded and presented in the table-16. The majority 275(73.33%) of them said they have their own labour, 871(18.93%) of them said that they hire labour and 28(7.47%) of them expressed that they have both of the labour.

**Type of material**

**Table-17: Type of Material**

Type of material	Place			Total	Percentage
	Guntakal	Vijayawada	Hyderabad		
Chrome leather	80	68	69	217	57.87
iBag tanned leather	30	24	31	85	22.67
PVC sole rubber	15	33	25	73	19.47
Total	125	125	125	375	100

Table-17 shows the type of material using for leather footwear, majority 217(57.87%) of the respondents expressed that they use chrome leather for footwear manufacturing, 85(22.67%) of them iBag tanned leather and 73(19.47%) of them expressed that they use PVC sole rubber for footwear making.

**Varieties of Material**

**Table-18: Varieties of Materials**

Varieties of material	Place			Total	Percentage
	Guntakal	Vijayawada	Hyderabad		
Buff leather	20	18	19	57	15.20
Calf hide	11	12	14	37	9.87
Goat Skin	35	26	22	83	22.13
Sheep skin	39	56	55	150	40.00
Cow hide	9	8	7	24	6.40
Nergit	11	5	8	24	6.40
Total	125	125	125	375	100

Table-18 illustrates the varieties of materials used the footwear making at Guntakal, Vijayawada and Hyderabad. The majority 150(40%) expressed that they use sheep skin for footwear making, 83(22.13%) of them goat skin, 57(15.20%) of them buff leather, 37(9.87%) of them calf hide, and 24(6.40%) of them expressed that they use cowhide and nergit leather for footwear making.

### Selling Products Through

**Table-19: How do you Sell Your Products?**

Selling products through	Place			Total	Percentage
	Guntakal	Vijayawada	Hyderabad		
Self, Local market	37	32	31	100	26.67
By Governmental channel (LIDCAP)	53	71	67	191	50.93
Shopkeepers	23	18	20	61	16.27
Others	12	4	7	23	6.13
Total	125	125	125	375	100

Table-19 illustrates the selling products by different markets and agencies. The majority 191(50.93%) of them expressed that they sell their products through By Governmental channel (LIDCAP), 100(26.67%) of them said self, local markets, 61(16.27%) of them said sell through shopkeepers and only 23(6.13%) of them expressed that they sell others.

### Mode of Selling Of Footwear by the Units

**Table 20: Mode of Selling of Footwear by the Units**

More of selling	Place			Total	Percentage
	Guntakal	Vijayawada	Hyderabad		
Wholesale	12	16	20	48	12.80
Retail dealers	41	31	25	97	25.87
LIDCAP	58	71	69	198	52.80
Others	14	7	11	32	8.53
Total	125	125	125	375	100

Researcher asked the question to the respondents about what are the modes of selling of footwear by the units and recoded results are presented in table-20. The majority 198(52.80%) of the respondents expressed that they sell through LIDCAP agency, 97(25.87%) of them retail dealers, 48(12.80%) of them wholesale dealers, and 32(8.53%) of them expressed that they sell through other vendors.

### Have You Taken Loan/Grant?

**Table 21: Have You Taken Loan/Grant**

Source of finance	Place			Total	Percentage
	Guntakal	Vijayawada	Hyderabad		
Bank LIDCAP	77	87	90	254	67.73

SC Corporation	23	19	15	57	15.20
Money lenders	20	13	11	44	11.73
Others	5	6	9	20	5.33
Total	125	125	125	375	100

Table-21 reveals the sources of finance, majority 254(67.73%) of the respondents said that they have taken loan from Bank LIDCAP, 57(15.20%) of them through SC Corporation, 44(11.73%) of them through money lenders and 20(5.33%) of them through others sources.

### Subsidy in the Financial Assistance

**Table 22: Subsidy in the Financial Assistance**

Subsidy of finance	Place			Total	Percentage
	Guntakal	Vijayawada	Hyderabad		
Yes	99	106	105	310	82.67
No	26	19	20	65	17.33
Total	125	125	125	375	100

Table-22 shows the subsidy in the financial assistance for their manufacturing units, most of them 310(82.67%) said 'yes' that they are getting subsidy, 65(17.33%) of them said no, they not getting subsidy loan.

### Satisfactory on LIDCAP Subsidy

**Table 23: Satisfactory on LIDCAP Subsidy**

Opinion on LIDCAP	Place			Total	Percentage
	Guntakal	Vijayawada	Hyderabad		
Very much satisfied	81	92	86	259	83.56
Satisfied	11	9	12	32	10.32
Somehow satisfied	6	4	5	15	4.84
Not satisfied	1	1	2	4	1.28
Total	99	106	105	310	100

Table-23 shows the satisfactory level on LIDCAP subsidy, majority 259(83.56%) of the respondents expressed opinion they are very much satisfied on LIDCAP subsidy, 32(10.32%) of them satisfied, 15(4.84%) of them somehow satisfied and 4(1.28%) of them not satisfied with LIDCAP subsidy.

### Problems Faced While Getting Finance

**Table 24: Problems Faced While Getting Finance**

Financial problems	Place			Total	Percentage
	Guntakal	Vijayawada	Hyderabad		
Not getting loan	74	88	79	241	64.27
Bankers not supportive	22	20	25	67	17.87
Cumbersome process to avail loan from bank	18	15	16	49	13.07
Untimely	11	2	5	18	4.8
Total	125	125	125	375	100

Table-24 illustrates the problems faced while getting finance, majority 241(64.27%) of the respondents expressed their opinion that they are not getting loan, 67(17.87%) of them said bankers are not supportive, 49(13.07%) of them cumbersome process to avail load from bank, and 18(4.8%) of them expressed their opinion it is untimely situations.

### Opinion on Footwear Manifesting Profession

**Table 25: You're Opinion on Footwear Manifesting Profession**

Manifesting profession	Place			Total	Percentage
	Guntakal	Vijayawada	Hyderabad		
Learned designing women shoes	99	120	118	337	12.05
Working with other designers on styles and trends	119	94	100	313	11.19
Researching ideas at fashion shows and events	109	75	94	278	9.94
Making sample shoes to present their ideas	102	82	82	266	9.51
Conducting quality checks and overseeing production	95	79	79	253	9.05
Creative eye and a flair for colour, texture and patterns	98	82	67	247	8.83
Sportswear such as football boots and	120	89	95	304	10.87

training shoes					
Specialist and custom footwear	68	100	93	261	9.33
Adapting existing footwear collections	84	96	89	269	9.62
Overseeing testing, and footwear durability.	91	92	86	269	9.62
Total	985	909	903	2797	100

**Note: Multiple Respondents Answers**

Researcher asked a question about your opinion on footwear manifesting profession or not, respondents results recorded and presented in table-25. The majority 337(12.05%) of the respondents expressed their opinion they have learned designing women shoes, following 313(11.19%) of them working with other designers on styles and trends. And least of respondents 247(8.85%) of them expressed on creative eye and flair for color, texture and patterns.

**Key Findings from the Study:**

1. Gender Distribution: Among the 375 respondents, the majority (76%) were male, and the remaining (24%) were female. Notably, 97% of the male respondents were from Hyderabad.
2. Caste Distribution: The majority of respondents belonged to different castes, with 33.87% from Madiga, 21.07% from Mocha, 17.60% from Mala, and smaller percentages from Adi Andhra, Chamar, Jaggali, Manne, Matangi, Samagara, Chhimbe, Dakkal, and Samban castes.
3. Age Groups: The majority of respondents fell into the age groups of 21-30 years (31.73%) and 31-40 years (30.67%). Smaller percentages were in the age categories of 41-50 years, 51-60 years, and above 60 years.
4. Education Levels: The highest percentage (38.40%) had an educational level below Class V, followed by 28.53% being illiterate, 20.27% having education between Class VI-X, and 12.80% holding Intermediate or higher degrees.
5. Marital Status: Among the respondents, 69.60% were married, 13.87% were divorced, 10.93% were unmarried, and 5.60% were widowed.
6. Family Structure: The majority of respondents from different locations lived in nuclear families.
7. Occupation: A majority (68.53%) of respondents were involved in footwear manufacturing, particularly from Scheduled Caste (SC) families within the leather industry.
8. Housing: Most respondents lived in tiled houses (50.93%), while others resided in pucca houses (45.33%), with a small percentage in huts (3.73%).
9. Ownership of Assets: A significant number of respondents mentioned owning mobile phones, televisions, fridges, fans, and radio/transistors.
10. Livelihood Units: The majority of respondents were engaged in footwear manufacturing, with some operating hereditary or business-based units.
11. Registration: Most respondents (95.73%) had registered their units, while a small percentage (4.27%) mentioned

- being unregistered.
12. Footwear Types: The majority of respondents were involved in the manufacturing of chappals, sandals, banto, and boots.
  13. Manufacturing Methods: The study found that respondents primarily used stitching and pasting as the main methods of manufacturing.
  14. Leather Types: The majority of respondents used sheepskin for footwear making, followed by goat skin, buff leather, calf hide, cowhide, and nergit leather.
  15. Sales Channels: Many respondents sold their products through government channels (LIDCAP), self, and local markets.
  16. Sales Agencies: The most common sales agencies used by respondents were LIDCAP, followed by retail dealers, wholesale dealers, and other vendors.
  17. Sources of Loans: The majority of respondents had taken loans from banks (LIDCAP), while others mentioned SC Corporation, money lenders, and alternative sources.
  18. Satisfaction with LIDCAP Subsidy: A significant majority of respondents (83.56%) expressed very high satisfaction with the LIDCAP subsidy, with smaller percentages indicating varying levels of satisfaction.
  19. Loan Access Challenges: Respondents faced challenges in obtaining loans, including issues with unsupportive bankers, cumbersome loan processes, and untimely loan disbursement
  20. Learning Designing: A substantial percentage of respondents (12.05%) reported that they had learned designing women's shoes.

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