ABSTRACT
In order to understand the conditions of a declining craft and the plight of the craftspeople one should have an understanding of the key elements that are critical in bringing the craft to an end. The dissertation sheds light on these factors that have led to the decline of the craft of Banarasi weaving on handloom in Khairpur.

There were three major reasons of writing this dissertation:
- This dissertation was written for many thousands of people involved in the process of Banarasi weaving. It was a small attempt to examine closely the lives and work of the craftspeople whose experience and expertise can never be questioned in any way.
- A need was felt to write a document to help people in understanding the tribulations and sufferings of the weaver community and the explanations behind it.
- Within these pages I cover all the facts that were essential in giving the reader a
deep insight of the craft that was once at its peak but now dwindles due to reasons unknown to the masses.

SHAIKH 3

The craft of Banarasi weaving initially started off in Pakistan in the city of Khairpur after partition of the subcontinent. It flourished immensely during Bhuttos regime who had provided the weavers with a quota system where in they would get raw material of less price. But slowly and gradually things started to change and the craft experienced the worst downfall ever and is still undergoing the worst conditions. The main reasons being that the wages given to the weavers are so less that they can hardly meet their basic needs. Secondly the government does not provide any help to the weaving community in terms of money. No institutions have been made to train the new generations so that they can preserve their cultural and family heritage. Ngo’s can play a very helpful role in bringing the craft to a better position but nothing of this sort has been done uptill now.
The changing political conditions of the country are also responsible for the decline. No political leader up till now has taken interest in the plight of the people. Hence in a few years the city of Khairpur will lose its most precious expertise. Most of the weavers from Khairpur have migrated to Karachi where they get a better salary and the where there is more market demand of the cloth. Hence the conclusion is that if proper steps are not taken to preserve the craft in Khairpur it would die very soon. For this the government and NGO’s have to come forward and work for the betterment of the weavers. Raw material should be provided on a quota based system with less price range.