



CHAPTER – 6
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6.1. Industry in India:

There are several aspects of the Indian textile industry worth noting. It is based on indigenous raw materials particularly cotton. In the year 1995-96 the textile industry provided employment to over 64 million persons, next only to agriculture. This is highly significant for a country like India as it is a labour intensive industry. It alone accounts for 4% of gross domestic product. In 1996-97 India earned nearly 12 billion U.S. dollars from textile industry. It is India's most traditional and prestigious industry.

One of the problems faced by cotton textile industry in India was the outdated technology of old mills and their industrial sickness. Gradually old technology is being replaced by the new one.

In addition textile related employees is provided in territory sectors like transportation, banking, insurance and marketing of textile and allied products both at home and abroad. Thus the sweep of textile industry in the national economy is deep and widespread and it touches the daily life of the teeming millions of the country in one way to another.

6.2. Deccan co-operative spinning Mill:

Deccan co-operative spinning mill was one of the biggest spinning mill in India in co-operative sector. The mill established in 1962. The mill was inaugurated at the hands of former president of India Dr. Radhakrishnan. Then on 9th April 1966 former defence minister of India Yashvantrao Chavan expanded 25000 spindles. The establishment of spinning mill was possible due to the major contribution of Dattajirao Kadam and Abasaheb Kulkarni.

From the establishment to 1994-95 the mill continuously gained profit. The shareholders of the mill gained Rs. 60 to 65 thousand profit by share amount Rs. 1000/- The highest profit for share amount Rs.1000 was Rs. 3033/- dividend. The workers gained 33% bonus. In this period 70% yarn used to be exported. This is one of the few mills which repaid total share capital of Government. The mill gave Rs. 300 crore foreign exchange to Government. One year workers demanded 20% bonus and the founder chairman Kadam gave 20.50% bonus to workers and workers were astomished. All this period indicates the time of mills prosperity.

Due to its success this mill gave motivation to other co-operative spinning mills in Maharashtra and India. The founder chairman Dattajirao Kadam established workers co-operative credit society for financial support to labourers.

6.3. Workers Security and Welfare:

The mill provided different facilities apart from the payment. Various schemes and programs were implemented by mill for increasing standard of life of the workers. Tea and breakfast items were provided to workers at cheaper rates.

“Decospin Antarang” journal was published by institute for publication of workers poetries and stories.

The workers children having good merit in various school exams were facilitated. The lectures were arranged on introduction of labour legislation Industrial situation etc. for the workers. Apart from these, mill arranged educational tour for workers children.

For workers sons and daughter who joined for higher education in textile, the mill provided support to them, in Dattajirao Kadam Textile institute for degree and diploma in engineering.

6.4. Schemes by the Factory:

- 1) The credit society of the workers: from this they got clothes, food grain, oil and other grocery. They also got loan from the credit society.
- 2) Medical help to workers as well as their family members.
- 3) Family planning schemes : Rs.50 per operation as financial assistance.

4) Workers children got educational material like books, note books etc. and prizes to merit list students.

5) Distribution of auto-cycles, cycles and T.V. to workers.

6.5. Decospin Charitable Trust:

The Deccan co-operative spinning mills established the decospin charitable trust. Through this trust, attempts were made to improve the weaker of the section and backward class people.

6.6. The Mill As Catalytic Agent:

The growth and development of the mill in Ichalkaranji, had its salutary effect on economy in and around Ichalkaranji. The mill society worked as a catalysts and soon it gave a fillip to both establishment and development of activities in the sphere of processing houses, banking, housing, consumer societies etc. all in co-operative field, giving the co-operative movement a strong and wide base. In other words, the progress in various areas made by the co-operative movement in and around Ichalkaranji was made possible to a large extent, by mill.

6.7. Process of closure:

After year 1995 some changes occurred in the workers organization. Gradually old leaders were replaced by new leaders. The difference of opinions resulted into two organizations; one inclined to congress (I) and another inclined at Nationalist congress party. On some issues they opposed each other.

The next part of their series was closing down 'A' unit of the mill which has capacity of 25000 spindles. The 'A' units workers were shifted to 'B' and 'C' units. Hundreds of workers who worked on 'Badali' and 'Temporary' card were sent back to home.

Some workers were rusticated in this period. In this period there was neglect of quality machine speed, workload. Eventually it increased unrest among labour and it increased loss of mill. After 1996, mill went in the loss and debt continuously.

Beside the pending bills of electricity M.S.E.B. for electricity was nearly Rs.3.50 crore ultimately the board cut down power supply on 28th March 2000. Before closure of the mill, three months lay off was given to the workers. In this situation but they could not get gratuity and provident fund. The workers who worked on 'Badali' and 'temporary' card awaited for gratuity but they also could not get there amount. On 20 Oct. 2000, Government appointed five members administrative committee.

6.8. Suicide of workers:

Shankar Devkar committed suicide in November 2001. He wrote note on paper that “Deccan mill is closed for nearly 18 months. There is no payment he can’t get another alternative work. He expected that worker leader give co-operation to his family.”

After this event workers expressed their anger and unrest. Before two week of Shankar Devkars suicide another mill worker Ashok Maruti Shinde committed suicide was due to closure of mill claimed by ‘Deccan Bachao samiti leader. Ashok Shinde took loan from bank, path-sanstha and money lender. Therefore he went in indebtness. The problem went to peak, when there was need of amount for their daughters delivery. In this situation he committed suicide.

6.9. Lack of amount for medical treatment:

One worker named Dattatray Kamble died in January 2002. His problem was much more difficult due to lack of amount for medical treatment.

The workers were worried how to get treatment on serious disease like paralysis, kidney problems, heart problems etc. Many workers had diseases in old age period. In the period of no payment and unemployment, workers were worried how to face day to day economic needs. These workers were

having no amounts for medical treatment. The problem was extended in such type of workers who faced diseases due to no help under employees state Insurance Scheme after closure of the mill.

6.10. Agitations of the workers:

Workers expressed their unrest mainly through morcha, court matter and suicide. Closure of mill closely related to difficulty in control of workers.

6.11. Impact on workers through secondary data:

After mill closure different local newspapers focused on suffering of workers their unrest actions against mill closure, attempts for restart of mill etc.

Daily 'Sakal' published an article in Oct.2001. They article wrote that Deccan workers came on road for their bread. The workers payment were stopped . After stoppage of payment workers faced wrost situation.

In the situation of economic depression, number of powerloom factories were closed down. Consequently Ichalkaranji's main industry was unable to provide job to workers. Other spinning mills also implemented policy of reduction of workers. In this situation alternative work was very

difficult. The workers told that they took loan. In this situation of hunger, how to spend money on their children education?

6.12. Migration of workers after mill closure:

Nearly 50% of workers migrated after mill closure to their native places and some of them to other places for the search of job. Labourers who had own sufficient farm for families went into farm activities. Other workers migrated who were landless or very less farm, searched for small business or jobs.

6.13. Loan of workers before mill closure:

Nearly half of the respondents took loan before the mill closure for less than Rs.10,000. The payment of mill helped them for repayment of loan.

6.14. Purpose of loan before mill closure:

They took loan for the purpose to built new house or to purchase new house. Some respondents took loan for self medical treatment and for their family members and for education of sons and daughters. Some took loan at the time of marriage of their daughters and sons. Some respondents took loan before mill closure for multiple causes.

6.15. Source of loan before closure of the mill:

Before mill closure Deccan co-operative credit society was much more useful for the workers who took loan for various reasons.

6.16. Repayment of loan before mill closure:

Majority of the respondents repaid loan totally before mill closure. The payment of mill was helpful to the workers to repay loan.

6.17. Loan of respondents after mill closure:

After mill closure of workers who took Rs.10000/- loan is more apart from these the number of worker more who took loan also increased in the comparison to number of those who took loan before closure of the mill.

6.18. Source of loan after mill closure:

After mill closure, workers moved to banks mainly. Some workers moved to money lenders. After mill closure due to decline in credit, it made difficulty for the workers.

6.19. Purpose for loan after mill closure:

After closure of the mill, respondents took loan for daily expenditure, medical treatment, education of sons and daughters etc.

6.20. Repayment of loan after mill closure:

From the proportion of respondents who took loan after mill closure, nearly half of the respondents could not repay loan.

6.21. Getting education before closure of the mill:

Nearly all respondent's children were taking education before the mill closure.

6.22. Continuation of education after mill closure:

40 respondents continued their sons and daughters education ahead. 09 respondents stopped education of their sons and daughters. 03 respondents continued education of their sons and daughters in lower level schools.

6.23. Workers facing health problems:

Before mill closure workers were getting benefits from 'Employees State Insurance Scheme.' Some economic burden on workers was reduced by this scheme.

The proportion of workers who faced health problem increased after mill closure in comparison to before mill closure.

6.24. Family stress and tensions:

In family, stress and tensions increased after mill closure, in the comparison of before mill closure. Multiple situations and problems increased stress and tensions in the workers life after closure of the mill.

6.25. Economic Burden:

The proportion of workers having economic burden increased much more after mill closure. The condition of no payment or less payment pushed them to more economic burden after mill closure.

6.26. Habits:

Majority of respondents had no habits before and after mill closure. The proportion of workers having habits had increased after closure of the mill.

6.27. Family members started job after mill closure:

In majority of cases family members have not be started doing job after mill closure but in some cases workers family members started doing new job to assist family income.

6.28. Change in ownership of house after mill closure:

Some respondents went from own house to rental house and some workers went from rental house to own house after mill closure. After mill closure some workers went in new house. As they got provident fund amount and housing society schemes and previous savings.

6.29. After mill closure starvation of family members:

Some of the workers family members starved after closure of the mill.

6.30. After mill closure family members health problems:

In majority of the cases there were no major health problems in the family. But in some cases, workers faced health problems in the family after mill closure.

6.31. Unemployment after mill closure:

Some workers remained unemployed for some period. Alternative job made difficult due to modernization process in the mill and power loom sector, policy of production through less workers etc.

6.32. Respondents opinions on reasons for closure of mill:

A) Political Reasons:

According to 38 respondents political cause is one of the major cause for mill closure.

B) Mismanagement:

According to 11 respondents mismanagement is another main reason for mill closure.

C) Neglected Directors Body:

Answers of 11 respondents indicated that in the last phase of mill it was neglected by directors body. According to 4 respondents, due to directors body, mill went to closure.

D) Disruption in Workers Organization or utility:

In opinion of 10 respondents, disruption among workers unity is one of the responsible factor for mill closure.

E) Loan:

7 respondents answered that as there was huge amount of loan mill which lead to closure.

F) Load of work on workers:

Seven respondents answered that one of the reason was load of work on workers.

G) Corruption in Mill Work:

22 respondents answered that corruption in mill work is responsible for mill closure.

H) Wrong method of Business:

Four respondents answered that wrong method of business such as neglected business principles, lack of business ethics in mill work

I) Depression in Textile Industry:

In the answer of seven workers, depression in textile industry was one of the causal factor for mill closure Because of depression, it reduced demand for the yarn.

J) Centralization of mill Power:

In the process of mill closure centralization of mill power was one of the cause according to one respondent.

K) Uncontrolled work of Mill:

One respondent explained difficulty in the control of mill work as one of the factor of mill closure.

L) Globalisation:

In the process of globalization, it started process of free economy and this process created some difficulty for the mill to work answered one respondent.

M) Unskilled Leadership:

Three respondents pointed out unskilled leadership at the time of closure phase. They answered this in other words that there was lack of strong leadership.

N) Loss in the mill:

Loss in the mill was responsible for mill clouser. This point was included in three respondents answers.

O) Electricity Bill:

The pending electricity bill was one of the issue responsible for mill closure according to two respondents.

P) Increased cost of raw material:

In the opinion of three respondents increased cost of raw material was one of the cause for mill closure

Q) Dispute among workers and management:

In view of three respondents on some issues there was dispute among workers and management and it promoted the process of mill closure

6.33. Experience of respondents after mill closure:

I) Economic Problems:

All the respondents faced economic problems after mill closure.

II) Indebtness:

Out of 55 respondents 37 respondents faced problem of indebtness after mill closure.

III) Mental stress and Tensions:

31 respondents faced mental stress and tension in the post mill closure period. This stress and tension was also found in their family members. Sometimes this tensions lead to disputes. The number of problems spoiled mental peace of workers.

IV) Role Conflict:

Majority of respondents were victim of this role conflict after mill closure

V) Decline of Income:

Majority of respondents faced problem of low income in the comparison of income from working in the Deccan spinning mill. Majority of respondents worked on low wage for fulfilling their needs. Majority of respondents faced unregular income and loss of income security.

VI) Educational Problems:

The mill closure affected education of children's. Nine respondents stopped education of their children. Three respondents reported that there children continued education in lower level of school in post mill closure period.

VII) Loss of credit and status:

Majority of respondents pointed out that they lost their status of Deccan mill workers after mill closure. Some respondents answered that people in society behaved differently after mill closure.

VIII) Overtime Work:

The respondents who worked in powerlooms had to work for 12 hours duty. Apart from these, they have to do overtime to adjust / get more income for family needs.

IX) Unemployment for some time:

20 respondents remained unemployed for some days.

X) Health problems:

Out of 55 respondents 15 respondent faced health problems after mill closure, such as paralysis blood pressure, heart attack etc.

Some respondents faced health problems of family members. Such respondents answered that they took loan for medical treatment.

Researchers Field observation:

The workers were not clear whether they will get their dues and jobs

As a result, a large workforce was thrown out of jobs due to closure of spinning will

The lengthy legal and other processes about compensation of workers is one of the main reason for workers suffering.

Field work provided supportive data to researcher for understanding condition of mill closure and workers life. It benefited the researcher for testing reliability of secondary data

One of the limitation about study is that some workers gave mismatching answers.

Because of limited education some workers were knowing how to give answer for this study.

Worker biasness is one of the most important problem to this study. Researcher could be attempted for reduce biasness of workers. But it could not succeed about all workers.

Researcher observed that at the time of weekly meeting of workers they were much aggressive and debated about court matter. They were and awaiting for their pending dues.

Most of the mill workers were not financially sound.

The economic injustice had turned into a total injustice because the net impact of mill closure was the loss of jobs to the working class. The workers had suffered due to the closure of in the mill and therefore there was a social injustice.

Here focus is on how the closure of mill affects both workers and their families.

Researcher known that labourers may quarrel for some petty or serious things at one time but most of times they work and act together. It is in this sense of compromise reached by the conflicting individuals.

The mill closure weakens workers personal and social life.

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