

## A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T

Powerloom industry constitute one of the most important segments of the textile industry in India. Powerloom industry in Maharashtra is a continuously expanding year to year. Bombay, Bhivandi, Malegaon, Sholapur and Ichalkaranji are some of the important centres of this industry. Ichalkaranji is the biggest industrial centre producing cotton cloth on powerlooms, Dhoti, Saree, Poplins, Cambric, mulls, Khadi etc. are different types of varieties manufactured here.

In the beginning, cloth was manufactured here on the handlooms. The first powerloom was installed here at Ichalkaranji by Late Shri. Vithalraoji Datar. This was the first powerloom in India in the decentralised powerloom sector. After independence, India has adopted a policy of rapid industrialization through five year plans. In this process of industrialization of the country labour force forms a significant part. The first five year plan indicated that the labour is the principal instrument in the fulfilment of the targets of the plan and in the achievement of economic progress generally. The improvement of labour class conditions, therefore becomes important for the development of India's economy.

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In recent years, as a result of encouragement given to industrialization, old industrial centres like Ichalkaranji have witnessed rapid growth and have attracted labour force for permanent settlement. This labour has now become the basis of further development of the growing cities like Ichalkaranji. Hence there is need to understand the workers from a social and economical point of view, also on this background an attempt has been made hereto have a socio-economic study regarding the conditions to workers in powerloom industry at Ichalkaranji, particularly in weaving sector.

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