

C H A P T E R NO. 2

RESEARCH STUDIES AND METHODOLOGY OF STUDY :

2.1 STATEMENT OF RESEARCH STUDY :

Concept : A study of the powerloom workers in Ichalkaranji.

- i) POWER : Energy or force that can be used to do work, operated by mechanical power, not by hand labour.
- ii) LOOM : Machine for weaving cloth.
- iii) POWERLOOM : A loom is a machine for weaving cloth. Looms are of two kinds :
 - A) Handloom : is operated by hand labour
 - B) Powerloom: A loom is operated by mechanical power.

A powerloom means a machine for weaving cloth operated by mechanical power.
- iv) POWERLOOM INDUSTRY : means the industry that undertakes the weaving of cloth by the help of powerlooms. Industry is concerned mainly with the production or manufacture of goods.
- v) WORKER : A worker in powerloom industry is one who does the work of weaving cloth on powerlooms.

This dissertation limits itself to the study of the workers in the powerloom industry in Ichalkaranji only.

This dissertation proposes to study the social and economical conditions of the workers in powerloom industry.

2.2 IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH STUDIES IN INDUSTRIAL LABOUR :

Since independence, India is making efforts to reach hard to register economic progress and to provide necessities of life to all its citizens.

" Planning is essentially an attempt at working out a rational solution of problems an attempt to co-ordinate means and ends , it is thus different from traditional hit and miss method by which ' reforms' and 'reconstructions' are often undertaken. With this approach at its base, planning in India proposed to initiate a process of development which will raise living standards and upon out to people new opportunities for a richer and more varied life.

The importance of the worker was stated in the first five year plan. The worker in the principal instrument in the fulfilment of the targets of the plan and in the achievement of economic progress generally. His co-operation will be an essential factor in creating an economic organisation in the country which will best subserve the needs of social justice " ¹

1. Govt. of India Planning commission " The first five year plan " 1951 Pages 7,8,570.

"The national development of a country basically depends upon more production of goods and service. From the national point of view more production would generate a healthy cycle of more income, more investment, more employment and more production. If the income is equally distributed the workers would be better off, with more purchasing power, better nutrition, more efficiency and more production " ¹

The recent stress on rapid industrialisation as the only solution to the problems of India's poverty misery and economic backwardness has raised the status of industrial workmen in the eyes of the public.

" B. Shiv Rao, Labour leader had surveyed the condition of industrial workers in India. He dealt with the background of the organisation among industrial workers in India along with post - 1st world war developments. He surveyed industry, agriculture, population, nutrition, public health, untouchability, and the problems regarding recruitment, housing wages and expenditure. He shows that it is economic pressure, the social disabilities of the outcaste and the lack of diversified occupations that are responsible for driving rural population in quest of work into the cities. He makes it clear that however unsatisfactory working

1. Punekar S.D. " Role of Labour in Economic Development
P. 4.

conditions may be, new industries do provide employment for a portion of superfluous population especially, in a country, in which agriculture can not possibly support its millions on standards compatible with human dignity"¹

" After independence " Higher production and greater productivity have come to be the watchwords. The stagnation of centuries had to be overcome to meet the rising tide of aspirations of the common man who expects a millennium the day the country became independent . It is not impossible to realise that no government could work miracles over-night " ²

All these views describe the most fundamental stand in favour of industrial productivity and the role of the worker in it. To increase productivity it is necessary that standard of living of workers is elevated well above the present level.

The powerloom industry causes , mass employment opportunities to workers of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled. In those workers men, women & children upto age sixty engaged in different activities of powerloom industries concerned.

1. B. Shiva Rao : " The industrial workers in India
P. 256-257

2. 1 A A.V. RAMAN RAO ' ESSAY ON INDIAN " Labour P. 7.

- d) To have a comparison of workers in Ichalkaranji with the conditions of workers in powerloom industry from different parts of India as revealed from different published and unpublished studies.
- e) To study the role of Trade unions in powerloom industry and their controversy with the powerloom weavers' Association

2.4 HYPOTHESES TO BE TESTED :

On the basis of these objectives some hypotheses were framed for testing. The data collection was done through interview. Questionnaire to test the following hypotheses.

- 1) The study presumes that traditional village setting does not provide adequate economic opportunities to the Artisans and other backward caste members will be higher at factories and household industries.
- 2) Workers who join the weaving industry are likely to be drawn from inadequate agricultural background.
- 3) The workers will participate actively in trade union activities.

- 4) The workers having lower monthly wages are more likely to show low level of commitment.
- 5) The workers expectation of promotion chances is directly related to amount of skill they possess.
- 6) The fulfilment of minimum needs of the workers is likely to be directly related to their monthly salary.
- 7) The workers participation in the institutions other than factory will be low.

2,5 The Design of the Study Sampling :

Sampling included selection of the units i.e. weaving & sizing units in Ichalkaranji, then selection of units at the last coming down to the selection of individuals from these units for the detailed interview.

2.6 Nature Scope & limitations of the study :

The textile industry can be classified in to two sectors, namely organised sector (i.e. textile Mills) and unorganised or decentralised sector. The decentralised sector consists of handlooms, power-looms, hosiery and Khadi units. The role of power loom sector in particular is very important in the

Indian Textile Industry. It provides employment to about 2.5 million workers.

The powerloom is mainly concentrated in Maharashtra and Gujrat states in about 8 to 10 centres. They are Bombay Bhivandi Surat, Malegaon, Sangli, Sholapur and Ichalkaranji in Kolhapur district. The powerloom industry in all these places is predominantly in the small scale sector. Almost 80 to 85 percent of the total looms are installed in small powerloom factories having less than 5 looms each. All members of the weaver's family work on these looms. Most of these small weavers are at the mercy of the Master weavers or financiers, who supply yarn to these weavers and take back the woven goods on payment of wages or so called conversion charges. Such weavers having less than 5 looms are called as KHARCHIWALA .

The Ichalkaranji specializes in cotton cloth, Bhivandi produces both cotton as well as silk cloth. Sholapur specializes in production of chaddar. Ichalkaranji specializes in mulls and cambrics.

The rapid growth of the powerloom sector during the past three decades has helped achieve many socio-economic goals of our planning but the industry is facing a number of problems. These problems are as follows :

1. Lack of constant supply of yarn.
2. Increasing cost of yarn.

3. Inadequate and costly credit to the powerloom sector.
4. Wide fluctuations in the prices of yarn.
5. Powerloom has no reservation like handloom sector.
6. Short count cotton yarn.
7. Handicaps suffered by the powerloom sector as against the Mill Sector.
8. Housing facility for workers of powerloom sector.
9. Lack of processing facilities.
10. Absence of Technical Aid.
11. Establishment of all India powerloom Board.
12. Appointment of comprehensive committee.

The above problems need urgent attention of the Government with answers ready to these problems, the powerloom will play more effective role in clothing the masse with cheap cloth of high standard"

Powerloom sector covers number of processing activities like supinning, handloom weaving, powerloom weaving, sizing, hand processing, machine processing bleaching and dying units.

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1. Memorandum submitted by the Ichalkaranji Powerloom weavers co-operative Association. -

Yantramag July 1981.

From the above activities I have chosen particularly workers engaged in powerloom weaving. There is wide scope for the study in production, marketing activities even though the scope of my study confirmed to workers in powerloom only. Specially in weaving process.

The area of study is confirmed to only Ichalkaranji city's geographical area. In short the study is related to weaver working class problems regarding social welfare and economical problems,

2.7 METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION :

A statement of study " ^{A study of the Powerloom} ~~The production workers in~~ workers in Ichalkaranji" The study is confined to only Ichalkaranji town's geographical area. Initially field survey was undertaken and the workers and owners in powerloom were contacted. For the technical knowhow and to see actual weaving processing I had visited number of powerloom centers. Various problems related to works social and economical conditions were discussed. Through Questionnaire was prepared and about 100 workers in powerloom at different ~~were~~ units were interviewed and the information was collected. While selecting the respondents age groups were not considered who were actually on powerloom such workers were considered as real respondents.

For the study purpose following methods were adopted to collect the information.

i) DISCUSSION METHOD :

While getting information from union leaders, poorloom owners, social workers, Association activities.

ii) QUESTIONNAIRE :

Used for the powerloom workers to collect the data regarding social and economical characteristics.

iii) OBSERVATION METHOD :

This method was applied to know the nature and actual practical work or processing system of powerloom units. So as to know the living conditions, Housing problems, Health problems, I had visited different slum areas just to observe.

In short the data collection were made available from No. workers, poorloom owners, different institutions, Union leaders Powerloom owners Association and liabrrary of A.S.C. College, Ichalkaranji and Shivaji University Kolhapur

2.8 ANALYSIS OF DATA :

The collected data were analysed by preparing various tables on different aspects of workerd. The number of workers was converted into percentages to the total number of workers both at industry level and in general of Inchalkaranji.

After locating the proportions through various table, they were analysed and attempts were made to find out association between two variable wherever possible. Statistical tests were also applied to see whether the relation between two variables was significant.

The scoring is done with references to equipment, commitment and aspiration level and is explained further at appropriate place.

2.9 PRESENTATION OF DATA :

An attempt has been made to present the collected data in specific categories as follows :

- 1) Review on powerloom industry
- 2) Ratio of population : Workers
- 3) Social characteristics of the workers
- 4) Social relations
- 5) Wage problems
- 6) Trade union and workers' participation
- 7) Conclusion
- 8) Suggestions

CHAPTER NO. 3 : (Contd.)