

CHAPTER - II

PROFILE OF THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY
IN ICHALKARANJI

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CHAPTER - I I

P R O F I L E O F T H E T E X T I L E I N D U S T R Y
I N I C H A L K A R A N J I .

INTRODUCTION

When one enters Ichalkaranji-City

Zat.....Paat..... Zaat.....Pat.....

The melodious sound of the powerlooms

Begins to linger in ears.

The eyes seeing the hanging

Beautiful cloths,

The heart saying that

The singing city is welcoming him,

With the memory re-calling

The tales, wonders and miracles heard all about the city...

Indeed- it is wonderous ¹ that Ichalkaranji which was a small village in the 18th century, has now grown into a good sized town, and is one of the largest and most important textile producing centre in our country for mass consumption--- a great miracle ¹¹ With about 60,000 powerlooms employing about 50,000 workers makes a lion's share in India's overall textile production. Today the name of the city is heard all over the country for it's varied super-fine fabrics- suiting to every pocket, specific needs and everchanging needs, tastes, habits and fashions of consumers. Ichalkaranji " Sarees and Dhoties " are very famous

and gained the worthy name of "Cheap and Best" cloths^e and attracted the attention of every men and women yound or old, all farmers rich or poor and many youngsters desirous to wear Ichalkaranji dhoties as a fashion on some happy occasions. Foreigners too are widely impressed by the city's sarees and dhoties by which our Govt. gets handsome revenue by exporting it to outside countries. Besides Govt. also gets sizable amount by way of taxes, duties and other benefits every year. In fact, of the phenomenal growth achieved in the field of textile production, Ichalkaranji has rightly been described as the "Manchester of Maharashtra", so as to appreciate and compare it to the 'Manchester' city, the biggest textile city in Great-Britian.

Therefore, it becomes a matter of great curiocity for any one who feels the development of township into an important textile centre in our country. Despite the total lack of many factors that require for any industrial advancement, the textile industry in Ichalkaranji has firmly rooted here. It is continuously growing up and has reached it's full moon. Obviously, it is a matter of great curiocity for any one.

Indeed, it is a great miracle ! It doesn't mean that it has achieved it on one fine morning. "Rome was never built in a day". Similarly, Ichalkaranji has not developed in a day but took several decades during which it experienced many odds and downfalls, but definitely survived and succeeded to the present status. It is all mainly because of an eminent ruler, for whom the credit must be given, who saw the welfare of his subjects by his planned

efforts. In fact, it becomes essential to take into account the historical ^{Perspective} of Ichalkaranji, before we attempt to analyse the reasons for the industrial innovation and development of the textile city.

2.1 HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF ICHALKARANJI.

The history of Ichalkaranji state is one of the most romantic and thrilling tales in the history of Maharashtra as it is the story of a poor boy who placed his name in the world's history as the founder of an important state. The early traces of the family of the founder of Ichalkaranji state are to be found in Varwada, a small village in Ratnagiri District where lived an unknown and very poor Konkansth Joshi family.

Poor Vishwanath Pant, the grand father of the founder of Ichalkaranji state left his place in the 16th century and settled down at Mhapana. After his death, his son Madhji Pant was to face the future. It is believed that in 1663, Gangabai, the wife of Madhji Pant gave Birth to her only son- Naro Pant- the founder of Ichalkaranji state.

After the death of Madhji Pant, his widowed Gangabai left Mhapana in 1670 with 7 years old Naro Pant as her chief body guard, crossed the Ghats and settled down at Kapshi, the residence of brave Malojirao Ghorpade. Santaji, the son of Maloji Ghorpade first saw in the young Naro Pant (now Narayan) the makings of a soldier. Narayan found great interest and enjoyment in listening

the adventurous stories of great Shivaji and his brave men told him by Maloji's Shilledars and Bargeers.

One day young Narayan requested a Salse to let him mount a horse. Although he had never ridden a horse before, he held the horse well in hand and made his first ride a great success. Unknown to the boy but to his fortunate it was noticed by Santaji Ghorpade who had been passing and stopped to witness the unusual self imposed lesson in riding and appreciated the boy with great satisfaction.

From this time onwards, Santaji took personal interest in Naro Pant and provided him all Civil and Military Education. He treated Naro Pant as his family member and loved him as his own son. Naro Pant now adopted Santajirao's Surname "Ghorpade" for himself and his family. In due course of time Santaji entrusted to Naro Pant the sole management of the accounts of army and of his own personal Jahgeer. Naro Pant too, like a dutiful son, in course of time repaid a hundredfold obligations to Santaji and his family. Lateron Santaji granted in 'Inam' to Naro Pant the villages of Bhilewadi, Ichalkaranji, Ajra, Arag and Mane-Rajuri. Afterwards he obtained in Inam Mhapana, Bahirewadi, Shippur, Panhala District and a large number of Ammals. Ichalkaranji became the capital place for this small but brave state.

Naro Pant and his successors ruled the state over about 250 years. Among the rulers Naro Pant, Smt. Anubai and Narayanrao Babasaheb-III are important.

Narayanrao Babasaheb was installed on Gadi (throne) in 1892. This important event had far reaching effects on the economic and commercial development of Ichalkaranji. Narayanrao Babasaheb introduced many reforms in the state. He constructed hospitals, libraries, municipal offices, etc., and also opened a large number of primary schools and a full fledged high school known as "Govindrao Highschool" in Ichalkaranji. He helped the poor and deserving students to prosecute studies in his state as also in foreign countries. He encouraged in his state local weaving, spinning and other industries. In fact, during his administration Ichalkaranji has developed into an important powerloom weaving centre which will be discussed in the next section under the title "Industrial ^{Perspective} of Ichalkaranji".

2.2 INDUSTRIAL PERSPECTIVE OF ICHALKARANJI.

Any industrial town has a long standing history of its own. Similar is the case with Ichalkaranji. It is believed that the art of weaving was known long before 1845 in Ichalkaranji. The records show that in 1845 there existed 636 handlooms in Hatkanangale Taluka of Kolhapur District. Of these 236 handlooms were in Ichalkaranji town.¹

In this connection it is also necessary to consider another survey which runs as; by 1882, there were 3102 total number of weaving looms and of these 688 were in Alte, 654 in Gadhinglaj, 422 in Karvir, 397 in Shirol, 350 in Ichalkaranji, 236 in Panhala, 179 in Kagal, 86 in Budhargad, 58 in Bavada and 32 in Vishalgad.²

From the above survey it is clear that with 350 handlooms Ichalkaranji ranked fifth out of the ten places named above in Kolhapur District. When Narayan Rao Babasaheb came to throne, the weaving industry in Ichalkaranji took rapid strides. He greatly encouraged local spinning, weaving and other industries. He was of the firm opinion that to enrich his state, to improve the standard of living of the masses and to achieve the maximum social and economic welfare- all people must get work and that the outside financial resources must flow-in his state. For this purpose he gave much more importance to weaving. Accordingly he called a large number of Ksthies and Salies (Village Weavers) skilled

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1. Deshpande & Kulkarni "Industrial Development of Kolhapur -- Kolhapur Darshan in Marathi", Kolhapur:1971 P-366.
 2. Compbell J.M., Bombay Gazetter Vol.XXIV, Bombay:1960, P-211 and P-212.

persons and workers from neighbouring states particularly from Rabhakavi and Banahatti of Karnataka. He provided them all sorts of facilities and financial assistance for weaving. Moreover, in order to provide proper training to his own weavers he contacted with other textile places like Bombay, Nagpur, Rabkavi and Banahatti. Besides he sent intelligent weavers to Bombay and Japan to acquire special training and knowledge in dyeing. He also invited some experts from Nagpur with a view to provide continued training to his weaving community. Thus NarayanRao Babasaheb laid down the strong foundation of this textile city which later came to be known as "Manchester of Maharashtra".

In the beginning weaving of lugadies (Sarees) on handlooms received a great stimulus. As such weaving of lugadies on handlooms was started on a large scale and provided livelihood to a large number of people. In those days too, Ichalkaranji lugadies were very famous which gave birth to this new Manchester.

To meet the increasing demand for cloth Babasaheb Ghorpade again greatly patronised and encouraged the people to install the power looms, a first trial in India. As a result some people of skill, courage and fertile imagination came forward and started the era of powerloom. Among these Late Shri Vitthalrao Datar was the first person who came forward with great pioneering zeal and established his "Venktesh Rang Tantu Mill" with a single powerloom in 1904. In fact, he is rightly been described as "the father of Ichalkaranji Powerloom Weaving Industry". His other subordinate

industrialists were Late Shri Balavantraoji Marathe, Late Shri Balkrishna Narayan Sangle, Shri ^{Krishnaji} ~~Gajanan~~ Rao Kamble, Shri Bugad, Shri Rupchand Shethaji, Keshav Premchand and Virupakshanna Sultanpure, who entered the industry and took active part in the development of powerloom weaving industry.

With the installation of powerlooms it became convenient to easily weave sarees of different colours and models according to the likes and fashions of the people. Therefore weavers realised that powerloom business is more profitable than handloom business. As such they gradually replaced their existing handlooms by powerlooms. Weaving which was confined to the community of Kothies and Salies in the past, now attracted the people from other communities and look it at as a commercial venture. All these factors have brought about a great boom to the powerloom industry.

As days passed on this initial prosperity was, however, halted due to the great depression in the early 1930's. This gave a great set back to the industry to such an extent that the working of all powerlooms came to a stand still. But the local industrialists being hard struggling and pains-taking in nature neither feared nor discouraged by this very situation. In fact they took up the challenge and decided to diversify their production contents from sarees to dhoties and mulmul production. This change in production helped them considerably from up-lifting the industry from the very bottom of slum. After this the industry was again put up ^{on} the sound footing leading to continued growth and prosperity.

By 1950, there existed 2000 powerlooms in Ichalkaranji. Then onwards the number of powerlooms increased rapidly which will be evident from the following table.

Table No.2.1

Rapid Growth of Powerlooms and Population in Ichalkaranji
from 1950-51 to 1986-87.

Year.	Number of Powerlooms.	Population.
1950-51	2,000	27,754
1955-56	5,000	--
1960-61	8,000	50,954
1965-66	12,000	--
1970-71	15,000	87,727
1975-76	20,000	--
1979-80	30,000	1,50,000
1980-81	33,000	--
1981-82	43,000	--
1982-83	45,000	--
1983-84	50,000	--
1984-85	53,000	--
1985-86	56,000	2,25,957
1986-87	60,000	--

Source : The above table has been suitably prepared with the help of some books, dissertations and nivedans prepared by Powerloom Weavers Association Ltd., Ichalkaranji.

From the above table it is seen that the number of powerlooms increased from 2,000 to 60,000 during a period of three and half decades i.e. from 1950 to 1987. The increase is about 26 times. Similarly population has also increased from 27,754 to ~~to~~ 2,25,957 an increase about 8 times during the same period. Thus there is a close relationship between the growth of powerlooms and the population of the city. It also means that powerloom industry has absorbed the population coming from outside places and provided adequate livelihood to the people.

Another interesting fact is that majority of powerloom owners at present were the workers who worked on powerlooms of others and made good saving with the help of which they purchased two or four looms depending upon their saving and expanded it. This also shows that workers are fairly remunerated.

Secondly nearly about 70% of the powerloom holders are small owners having two to six powerlooms. Who depend entirely up on the trading companies for the supply of sized beams and yarn and are exploited by the trading companies in many respects. Only about 30% of the loom-holders are in a better position.

Thirdly majority of powerlooms owners and workers are from the communities other than the traditional weavers i.e. Salies and Kosthies.

Finally nearly about 90% of the total population depends upon powerloom industry for their livelihood directly or indirectly which ^{is} an indicative that powerloom industry is the sole occupation of the people here.

2.3 REASONS FOR THE RAPID GROWTH OF POWERLOOMS IN ICHALKARANJI.

It is surprising that in an isolated place like Ichalkaranji, inspite of the total lack of many factors powerlooms have expanded rapidly within a short period of time. The reasons for the phenominal growth of powerlooms from a mere one powerloom in 1904 to 2000 in 1950 and then to 60,000 today can be explained as follows :

1) Support of the Jagirdar :

In the beginning, NarayanRao Babasaheb, Jagirdar of the place, provided all the facilities for the installation of powerlooms in Ichalkaranji. He gave free land for the construction of loomshed and residential houses to the weavers. He liberally financed for purchasing looms and construction of loomsheds. He levied no taxes or any other financial burden on the weavers. Due to his encouragement many people installed powerlooms. Also a large number of people from Rabhakavi, Banahatti and such other places migrated to Ichalkaranji and installed powerlooms.

2) Migration of Weavers and Other People :

Due to the encouragement of Jagirdar a large number of village artisans from Rabhakavi, Banahatti, Mahaningpur, Budhagaon, Belgaum, etc., migrated to Ichalkaranji formerly having worked on handlooms they got easily adjusted to work on powerlooms with the help of these skilled weavers it became possible to produce different varieties ^{of} good quality fabrics accordingly to the changing tastes,

habits and fashions of the consumers. Besides a large number of poor people migrated to Ichalkaranji to find work. All these skilled weavers and people were available at low wages.

3) Replacement of Handlooms By Powerlooms :

In the beginning there existed handlooms. Due to the increased productivity of powerlooms, handloom weavers attracted towards this and gradually replaced their handlooms by powerlooms. As a result the weavers now began to produce more cloth, earn more and further invested their savings for expansion of the plus business.

4) Sale Of Old And New Looms On Credit And Installment Basis :

Many looms in Bombay and Ahmedabad replaced their old looms and sold them at through-away-prices. Late Shri Dattajirao Kadam purchased these old powerlooms in lots and sold the same at cheaper rates mostly on credit. This must be treated as an important event in powerloom history of Ichalkaranji. Similarly, some powerloom manufacturing foundries, in course of time, used to sell looms on easy installment basis and on easy terms. These factors gave a great encouragement to install the powerlooms on large scale. Thus facilitating the rapid growth of powerlooms.

5) Entrance Of Marwadies And Merchants :

In course of time a large number of marwadies and trading merchants came and settled here. They started yarn agency business and also opened yarn banks known as "Pedies" marwadies through their yarn pedies used to supply sized beams and the required weft yarn to

~~supply sized beams and the required weft yarn to~~ the weavers and also used to purchase the woven cloth from the weavers. To say the procedure became a sort of reciprocal buying and selling. This system enabled the weavers to concentrate entirely on producing the cloth. Moreover, these marwadies gave financial assistance for installing additional looms during the periods of business booms (Teji). In a sense this gave a great help for the expansion of powerlooms.

6) Financing By Banks :

Taking into account the rapid growth of powerlooms and their financial requirements many co-operative credit banks were established. These banks have financed liberally to the powerloom holders in many ways. Initially banks financed for the purchase of looms, construction of loomsheds, etc., on easy terms and conditions.

7) Growth of Ancillary Industries :

Formerly the grey cloth manufactured on powerlooms was used to sent to Bombay for processing, etc. This involved heavy expenditure on transportation. To avoid this many processing units were established on co-operative basis and also ^{on} private ownership. This brought about a new era for the powerloom industry.

8) Pioneering Zeal Of Powerloom ^{owners} Owners :

It is interesting to note that from the very beginning itself powerloom owners got themselves completely involved in the industry. All the while they took lively interest in the prosperity

of their industry. Being ^{ou}courages, immaginative and hard struggling nature, inspite of many crises retarding the very growth of the industry, they survived and succeeded in carrying out their industry on the line of progress. This is also because of their unity and co-operation to each other.

9) Worker-Owners :

A notable feature of powerloom industry in Ichalkaranji is that a large number of workers having worked on powerlooms of others for some years gradually became the powerloom owners. They worked hard, saved their earnings and lateron invested the same in installing their own powerlooms. In the beginning due to their small capital, in many cases such workers installed the looms on partnership basis. perhaps they might have been preferred second hand looms. They assisted by their family members in their weaving work. It is indeed true that the majority of powerloom owners at present were the workers in the past. This is also one of the main reasons for the rapid growth of powerlooms in Ichalkaranji.

10) Natural Factors :

Fortunately two basic factors are available in Ichalkaranji which are conducive to the rapid growth of powerlooms. They are : water and hard land resources. This hardness of land is very suitable for the construction of loom-sheds, factories and other buildings with least foundationary cost. Thus it became comparatively easy even to an ordinary small loom owner to construct his own loom shed and residential house with least cost.

2.4

OTHER TEXTILE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS.

The importance of any industry can be judged with reference to its scope for the development of ancillary industries and similar Socio-Economic Developments. In this regard, the powerloom industry which is the main, provided wide scope and limitless opportunities for the growth^{of} a large number of ancillary industries viz. Spinning, Processing, Sizing & Winding, Dyeing and Printing, etc. Besides banking institutions, industrial estates, various associations, etc., have all originated. These developments can be discussed as follows :

I. Spinning Mills

Availability of yarn at right quantity, at right time and at right price play an important role for the growth of powerlooms. Ichalkaranji is known for co-operative movement. Visualising the future growth of powerloom industry some eminent leaders viz. Late Shri Dattajirao Kadam, Late Shri Babasaheb Khanjire, Shri Ratnappanna Kumbhar, Shri Kallappanna Awade, etc., came forward and established the Spinning Mills. They are :

sr.No.	Name of the Spinning Mill.	Year of establishment.
1.	The Deccan Co-Operative Spinning Mills Limited.	1960.
2.	The Kolhapur Zilla Shetkari Sahakari Soot Girani Limited.	1965.
3.	The Ichalkaranji Co-Operative Spinning Mills Ltd.,	1975.
4.	Nav-Maharashtra Co-Operative Spinning Mills Limited..	Recently Started.

There are also proposals for the following mills :

- i Janata Shetkari Vinkari Sahakari Soot Girmi.
- ii Datta Shetkari Vinkari Sahakari Soot Girmi..
- iii Venktesh Sahakari Soot Girmi.

II. Sizing And Winding Units

Weaving activity entirely depends upon Winding and Sizing Units for the supply of sized beams. In Sizing Units warp yarn is filled up on the weaver's beam which becomes ready for weaving. Before this is done the warp yarn has to undergo a process of winding to be fit for sizing. In fact, sizing is considered as supplementary to weaving. One sized beam lasts for two to three weeks for a powerloom depending upon the quantity and quality ^{of} yarn [^] used on sized beams

In Ichalkaranji there exist 150 sizing units and 150 winding units at present, about 2,500 workers are employed in these units.

III. Processing Units

The grey cloth woven on the looms has less consumer appeal, and above all weaving is not the end process in itself. Therefore, the grey cloth woven on the looms must undergo a series of processing stages to be ready for final sale. Textile Processing involves designing, bleaching, etc., which are based upon certain well defined fundamental, chemical and physio-chemical principles. Coarse cloth is produced in Ichalkaranji. In the past grey cloth was used to sent to Bombay for processing and then for sale there. This

involved huge transportation cost and more time consuming. Naturally the need for processing was felt. Accordingly proper move was made in this direction to establish the processing houses on co-operative basis in Ichalkaranji itself. As a result "The Yashwant Co-Operative Processors Ltd.," was established in 1962.

In Ichalkaranji at present there exist 4 power processing houses and about 16 hand processing units. It is estimated that about 11 lakh metres of cloth is processed every day. About 6,000 workers are working in these processing houses.

IV. Dyeing And Printing Units

Dyeing and Printing is the last process in textile manufacturing. Giving colour to the cloth and then Printing various designs on it taking into account consumer's fashions and choice, plays a very significant role as it gives the cloth marketing appeal-appealing the ultimate consumers. Colouring and Printing is carried on in such a way that the colour of the cloth and the printed design there on will not wash away either in loundries or to an open light when exposed to it.

In Ichalkaranji there are about 50 to 60 printing units and more or less similar number of dyeing units.

V. Foundries

In the past powerlooms were purchased from Ahmedabad, Bombay, Bangalore, Gwalare, Belgaum, Sangli, etc., But acquiring looms from

these distant places is costlier due to transportation cost, Octroi Charges, etc. It also involves a long waiting period. As a result some foundries are started to manufacture the powerlooms and its allied parts. Some of the the important foundries are :

- 1) Shri Sadguru Prasad Industries (Teke).
- 2) Siddeshwari Foundry (Patil).
- 3) Datta Metal Works (Alase).
- 4) Narayan Powerloom Industries (Mane).
- 5) Ashok Engineering Works (Sutar).
- 6) Janata Iron Works (Bapu Kole).
- 7) Texas Industries (Kurkute).

The powerlooms manufactured in these foundries are of good quality and sold at cheaper rates.

VI. Banks And Other Financial Institutions

Finance is the life and blood of all industrial activity. Banks and other financial institutions provide to a great extent the necessary finance to the industries and facilitate their growth.

During the periods when powerloom industry took rapid strides towards growth, a large number of co-operative banks, commercial banks and such other financial institutions came into existence. At present there exist 11 co-operative banks, 7 nationalised banks, 4 sheduled banks and one mahila bank. Apart from this there are many private local "Bhishi Mandals" and private money lenders. All

these banks and financial institutions finance the powerloom industry and also ancilliary industries in a variety of ways. Moreover, IFCI, ICICI, IDBI, MSFC, LIC, GIC, etc., also financed the textile industry in Ichalkaranji.

VII. Industrial Estates

With the growth of powerlooms, the problem of accommodation for these looms was felt necessary. Accordingly an industrial estate was constructed to ensure the orderly growth of powerlooms. Recently one more industrial estate known as "Parvati Co-Operative Industrial Estate" is registered which will come into existence in near future. In fact these estates are instrumental to the growth of powerlooms.

VIII. Handloom And Powerloom Weavers Associations

The entrance of Rajastani Marwadies and other trading groups created a new class of "Master Weavers". These master weavers used to supply sized beams and yarn to the handloom and powerloom weavers. But gradually they developed into a strong monopoly power in this field and started exploiting the weavers. In order to restrict their monopolistic practices and to provide real fruits of their efforts to weavers "Handloom Weavers Association and Powerloom Weaver's Associations" were set up in 1945 and 1948 respectively. Apart from this, "Yantramag Dharak Kruti Samiti", "Yantramag Samanvay Samati" and "Yantramag Sangharsha Samiti", have been established in due course of time to protect the interest of the weavers. They being well organised and competent helped to a great extent to the loom holders in many ways.

IX. Lal Bavata General Kamgar Union

It is the general union of workers established on 23-12-1967 and is affiliated to C I T U. Its main objective is to educate the workers on the principles of socialism and always tries to create new leaders for the future. With gifted leadership the union has achieved to a great extent its basic objective. It fights not only for monetary demands of workers but also protects the interest of the workers against the possible exploitation. Perhaps, the union seems to be one of the strongest, powerful and active union in our country.

X. Yarn And Cloth Market And Merchant's Association

Yarn is the basic raw material to the powerloom industry. There is also a yarn market called "Soot Bazaar" in Ichalkaranji wherein sellers and buyers transact in yarn dealings. Apart from this three local spinning mills have opened their sales depots., and about 15 yarn selling depots., have been established by outside mills.

In the past cloth produced here was used to sent to Bombay and other textile centres for the it's sale. Realising its importance, recently a cloth market was constructed. This cloth market has 290 blocks. With a view to safeguard the interests of yarn traders and cloth merchants. "Yarn Traders And Cloth Merchants Association" was set up in 1976.

XI. Deccan Co-Operative Spinning Mill's Research Foundation

A research foundation known as "Decco-Spin Research Foundation" was started by Deccan Co-Operative Spinning Mills in order to have a research in the field of spinning, weaving and processing. The motto of this research foundation is to explore the new means and avenues to improve the efficiency and productivity of powerlooms, to find out the new methods and techniques of production, diversification of production, innovating and developing the various designs and prints for the various sorts of woven cloth of powerlooms.

XII. Textile Technical Institutions

Taking into account the increasing needs of the rapidly growing textile industry, two textile colleges have been recently started here. They are :

- 1) Shri Dattajirao Kadam Technical Education Society's Textile Institute, Ichalkaranji.
- 2) Chhatrapati Shahu Polytechnic, Ichalkaranji.

These colleges are providing degree, diploma and certificate courses in the fields of textile management and textile engineering.

XIII. Powerloom Weaver's Societies

The New Textile Policy of Central Government passed a great threat to the powerloom industry. In fact, in Ichalkaranji majority of powerlooms (of about 66%) have stopped functioning due to increasing prices of yarn but decreasing demand for powerloom cloth. Indeed, the industry is suffering from great crisis. To take up the industry from this crises, some local leaders thought of establishing "Powerloom Weaver's Co-Operative Societies". The object is to supply

sized beams and yarn to the powerloom weavers and marketing the cloth so produced so as to give increased benefits and profits to the weavers. Obviously, it is a right move. During the current year one such Society supported by Congress (I) Committee came into existence. Many Societies were also registered during the same period but are not yet functioning due to lack of adequate finance. However, we do hope that these societies will start sooner and greatly facilitate the growth and prosperity of powerloom industry in Ichalkaranji.

2.5 ICHALKARANJI "THE MANCHESTER OF MAHARASHTRA"

The general understanding about Manchester is the city known for 'textiles'- which have a wide demand throughout the world. Similar is the case with Ichalkaranji. Ichalkaranji, to a common man means a city producing textiles on a large scale. It is so because Ichalkaranji "Sarees and Dhoties" are very famous and gained the worthy name of "Cheap and Best Cloths^e" and attracted the attention of every men and women, young or old, all farmers-rich or poor and many youngsters desirous to wear Ichalkaranji dhotis as a fashion on some happy occasions and are in a great demand throughout India. Foreigners too are widely impressed by the city's sarees and dhotis by which our government gets handsome revenue by exporting it to outside countries. Besides Government also gets sizable amount by way of taxes, duties and other benefits every year. In fact, of the phenomenal growth achieved in the field of textile production, Ichalkaranji has rightly been described as the "Manchester of Maharashtra". So as to appreciate and compare it to the Manchester City- the biggest textile city in Great-Britain.

Manchester is Commercial Centre in Great-Britain. It has a fine net work of rail-road and airways connecting it with the various trade centres in Britain and other parts of the world. It was known for wool and nylon during 16th Century. It developed greatly during and after industrial revolution and sooner it became a major centre for producing yarn and cloth of superior quality- commanding a world-wide demand. Its progress was mainly due to the free trade policy adopted by the Government.

Ichalkaranji is quite different from that of Manchester in many respects. It has neither a railway station nor harbour, or airways. There is a total lack of facilities of port, airways, railways, facilities for ready market for cloth produced, favourable climatic conditions, etc. Even then Ichalkaranji is compared with Manchester. It is so because like Manchester, it has also a long tradition of weaving. It was a small village in the 18th Century. But now it came to be recognised as one of the most important textile centre in our country. Its progress was mainly due to the encouragement given by Late Shrimant Narayan Rao Babasaheb Ghorpade, the then Jahagirdar of the place. Like Manchester it has also seen the co-operative movement on wide scale. The main factors that have contributed in building this textile centre are land, water and men of great zeal and zest with which it made rapid strides towards industrial development.

It must be noted that Manchester is not only a textile town, but also a town of many industries. The business activities in Manchester include stock exchange, automobile manufacturing, metal processing, coal mining, chemicals, processed foods and furniture. Such activities are hardly found in Ichalkaranji. Even so, we can point out that the industrious people of Ichalkaranji would have shaped the town like Manchester, had there been the same natural facilities and resources available.¹ It is in this sense that Ichalkaranji is called as the "Manchester of Maharashtra".

1. Sudheer A. Patil "Problems of Procurement of yarn to Powerloom Industries in Ichalkaranji", SIBER, Kolhapur-1985, P- 43.

Another way of discussion rests on the question- why Bombay, Solapur, Bhivandi or Malegaon are not called as the "Manchester of Maharashtra" ?

As it has been stated earlier, Manchester to a common man means a big textile producing centre. With this point in view, we can proceed to answer the above question. No doubt, Bombay is well-known for textiles, but the textile industry is not the only industry of Bombay. Apart from this other industries have also developed there. Bombay is the centre for many industries and enjoys many facilities for their development. But in Ichalkaranji textile producing is the only industry that developed, inspite of many unfavourabilities. Even in Bombay textile industry is not in the decentralised sector but we found organised mill sector. It can also be stated that organised mill sector took birth in Bombay whereas the decentralised powerloom industry took birth in Ichalkaranji and set an example for solving many socio-economic problems at national level. e.g. decentralisation of industries, regional development, large employment potential, self employment, reduction of pressure on land and even distribution of national income. Such kind of benefits are not derived from Bombay textile industry instead it created many socio-economic problems. From this point of view, Ichalkaranji should be given favourable consideration.

So far as Solapur, Bhivandi and Malegaon are concerned Ichalkaranji has a strong side of argument. In the first place, it can be stated that, first of all in India the decentralised powerloom industry took its birth in Ichalkaranji with the installation of a

single powerloom is in 1904 and set an example of its own to be imitated by other places. Like Bombay, in Solapur, Bhivandi and Malegaon, there also exist other industries along with textile industry. Bhivandi and Malegaon are nearer to Bombay and have drawn inspiration of industrialisation from it. But Ichalkaranji is an isolated place far away from industrial centres from which it could draw industrial aspirations as such. So far as the number of looms are concerned Ichalkaranji enjoys more number of looms than that of Solapur and Malegaon but little less to that of Bhivandi. But the quality of cloth produced in Ichalkaranji is comparatively higher than that of these places. As such Ichalkaranji sarees and dhotis enjoy a great consumer appeal. Moreover, the productivity of powerlooms is comparatively high in Ichalkaranji and the industry is better organised and well-forwarded than any other centres. Standard of weaving in Ichalkaranji is also very high. Powerloom industry in Ichalkaranji is totally cotton based.

The development of ancilliary industries viz. Spinning, Processing, Printing, Sizing, etc., have all developed very rapidly in Ichalkaranji and the number of these industries is also very high as compared to Solapur, Bhivandi and Malegaon. To conclude this brief account we can state that when we talk of Ichalkaranji the picture that comes in our mind is the big textile producing centre. But it is not the case with other centres. Thus, Ichalkaranji has rightly been claimed the name as "the Manchester of Maharashtra".

Table No. 2.2 : Powerloom Industry at Ichalkaranji in figures
as on 30-6-1987 (approximately)

Population	2,25,000
No. of powerlooms	60,000.
Investment in the above looms	Rs. 90 crores.
<u>NO. OF WAGE EARNERS</u>	
1) Workers	40,000
2) Badali Workers & Apprentices	6,000
3) Pirm winders	6,000
4) Jobbers	6,000
5) Filling in workers	5,500
6) Cone and mere. Yarn winders	2,600
7) Folders and clerks	5,500
8) Coolies	1,500
<u>OTHER LABOUR</u>	
1) Sizing Units - 170	3,000
2) Processing Units - 16	6,000
3) Spinning Plants - 4	3,000
<u>YARN CONSUMPTION</u>	
1) Monthly @ 125 kgs per loom for 25 days	75,00,000 Kgs
2) Yearly (i.e. for 300 days)	9,99,99,000 Kgs.
<u>CLOTH PRODUCTION</u>	
1) Monthly @ 1950 metres per loom for 25 days	11,70,00,000 Mtrs
2) Yearly (i.e. for 300 days)	1,40,40,00,000 Mtrs
<u>VALUE OF PRODUCTION IN RUPEES (RS.6/- per metre)</u>	
1) Monthly	70,20,00,000
2) Yearly	8,42,40,00,000
3) Yarn cost in the above total value	70%

The table is obtained from Powerloom weaver's
Association, Ichalkaranji.

2.6

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF ICHALKARANJI.

Geographically, Ichalkaranji is situated on latitude 60° - 40° north and on longitude 74° - 30° east. The city lies on the left bank of the river Panchanganga about 1.6 kms to the north of the river. It is about 29 kms to the South-East of Kolhapur City and 26 kms to the South-West of Sangli City. Three roads branches from Kolhapur-Sangli road enter the town. One from West and the other two from north and the south. Ichalkaranji is approached by the road from Nipani and Chikkodi towns of Karnataka State. Hatkanangale is the nearest Railway Station for Ichalkaranji situated towards the north of a distance of 9.6 kms.¹

Land and Area :

The total land area under the jurisdiction of Ichalkaranji is about 2038 hectares. As the city is situated in moderate rain region is comparatively dry and has a moderate rainfall. The range of temperature between the maximum and minimum is comparatively small. The maximum temperature in cold season rarely falls below 10°C and maximum temperature in hot season is about 40°C .

For the development of any industry at-least two factors are needed namely availability of raw-material and cheap and quick means of transport and communication Cotton is the basic raw-material for textile powerloom industry. Either in Ichalkaranji nor in its

1. Compbell J.M., Bombay Gazetteer Vol. XXIV,
Revised Edition, Bombay-1960, P-840.

neighbouring areas cotton is not grown. But cotton and yarn is obtained from other places in Maharashtra and from other states too. Cheap and quick means of transport and communication facilities were also not developed as are required. In spite of the lack of these two major needs the textile powerloom industry is firmly rooted and prospered to the great.

CHAPTER-III.

THEORETICAL FRAME-WORK OF THE
SUBJECT.

PART- I : POWERLOOM INDUSTRY.

- 3. A Introduction.
- 3. B Some Major Problems Of Powerloom Industry In India.
- 3. C The New Textile Policy And The Decentralised Powerloom Industry.
- 3. D Prospects Of Powerloom Industry In India.

PART-II : F I N A N C E.

- 3.1 Introduction.
- 3.2 Definitions of Finance.
- 3.3 Classification Of Finance.
- 3.4 Importance Of Finance.
- 3.5 Finance Function.
- 3.6 Fixed Capital.
- 3.7 Working Capital.
- 3.8 Industrial Financing In India :
 - A) Meaning And Importance Of Industrial Finance.
 - B) Financing Large-Scale Industries.
 - C) Financing Small-Scale Industries.