

P R E F A C E

From long ago, I have been in constant contact with the powerloom city of Ichalkaranji. It is mainly because all my brothers came and permanently settled here and are running their own powerlooms. When I was studying I used to come to Ichalkaranji during my vacation periods and used to ask innumerable questions to my brothers about the Industry with a curiosity to understand the industry. They always used to take lively interest in satisfactorily answering my questions. The discussion with them helped me to understand the importance and various advantages of running the powerlooms, its difficulties and problems.

I took special interest in the industry when the Government of Maharashtra declared its Minimum Wages Act for powerloom workers in ~~their~~ the year 1984. Because soon after the declaration the whole industry has divided into two classes owners of powerlooms on one side and workers on the others. Workers went on strikes to compel the owners to pay them Rs.652/- as minimum wages powerloom owners greatly affraid of this Act and lock outs followed sooner.

When I attended the "Jaheer Sabhas" of powerloom owners during the strikes and lock-outs period, I came to know that owners were quite anxious and expressed their great fear about the Act. This helped me to understand their problems and their inability to implement the Act. Many industries^{list} expressed their view that if the Act is not taken back they will shift their looms to neighbouring Karnataka State.

Or stop the industries permanently . This has led me to think of whether the industry can survive in Ichalkaranji in future ? What to do for it ? And so on. Similarly when I also attended the workers "Jaheer Sabhas" I came to know the difficulties of workers, their problems, their grievances and why the minimum wages are to be paid to workers and so on.

Again after sometime Central Government ^{declared} the reservation of certain textiles to handloom sector and put restrictions on powerlooms for manufacturing these items. This again made the industry to stand still. Soon after this the Central Government announced its New Textile Policy in June-1985. As a result yarn prices began to fluctuate widely and shown continuous increasing but no demand for the cloth. Thus loom holders greatly affraid of dark future, powerloom industries began to closed down one after another. As a result owners and workers became unemployed leading to many social and economic problems. Once the pieceful, glorious and prosperous city came to a halt. All have expressed their grievances that Government puts many restrictions on the industry but provides no protection to the industry. Weavers expressed their sad conclusion to dispose off their looms and stop the industry permanently as they have no future.

All these issues has led me to study all the problems of the industry in detail with a view to find out the measures to remedy the present problems and also to explore the future potentialities of growth in the interest of all. When I consulted my guide teacher Dr.C.S.Shresthi and expressed my strong desire to do some research work

on the burning problems of the industry. I got ~~readh~~ readily encouraged by him. Similarly Prof.T.A.Shivare greatly encouraged me to select the subject for studying the burning problems of powerloom industry. Thus my pre-knowledge of the burning problems of powerloom industry led me to do some research on the "Problems and Prospects of powerloom industry in Ichalkaranji city with a special reference to financial problems".

The present dissertation is based on the research study carried out in powerloom textile industry of Ichalkaranji as a partial fulfilment of the Master of Philosophy Course in Commerce conducted by Shri Chh.Shahu Central Institute of Business Education and Research, Kolhapur, affiliated to Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

The process of development is full of risks, uncertainties, changes and challenges requiring a high knowledge, skill, ~~fextile~~ flexible imagination and above all the ability and readiness to continue the process and take it to its peak. Indeed the industri^uo_s people of Ichalkaranji inspite of many difficulties, problems and overwhelming odds shooked the wheels of industrialisation and as a result of their hard and continued efforts that Ichalkaranji has emerged into one of the biggest textile centre in our country . And in fact gained the worthy name of "Manchester of Maharashtra".

But at present the powerloom industry is facing innumerable, varied and complex problems in respect of many matters- all requiring urgent solutions.

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The present research study is an impartial and objective approach to the various problems of the industry. I had put forwarded my humble suggestions for the removal of these problems and also suggestions to ensure the future prosperity of the industry. I do hope that ^{this} will help the weavers ~~th~~ not only in solving their present problems but also helps to understand about the future prosperity of the industry and that they will find it more beneficial to plan their industries according to the future trends. Similarly, Government will find it more useful for framing the policies concerning the industry. Similarly workers and all others who ^{de}pend upon this industry directly and indirectly and all those who come in contact with this industry will feel the work more useful. In fact I do hope Government, powerloom owners, workers and all others concerned with the industry will take right move in proper direction and will see that the industry will prosper to its highest.