

CHAPTER - IV

STUDY OF TRADE UNIONISM IN ICHALKARANJI WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE
TO INTUC AND CITY
(MEMBERSHIP, FINANCE AND FUNCTIONS)

INTRODUCTION :

In Ichalkaranji there are about 60,000 powerlooms and about 56,000 workers are working in different industries, who come from different places and are of different religions and caste. The main source of income of these workers is wages and salary from working in the above mentioned industries.

At present there are seven trade unions working in the field of textile industries at Ichalkaranji.

They are as follows :

1. Lal Bavata General Kamagar Union (Powerlooms Sector)
2. Deccan Girani Kamagar Samittee (Powerlooms Sector)
3. Deccan Girani Kamagar Samittee (Spinning Mill Sector)
4. Soot Girani Kamagar Sanghatana (Spinning Mill Sector)
5. Rashtriya Soot Kamagar Sanghatana (Spinning Mill Sector)
6. Rashtriya Processing Kamagar Sanghatana.
7. Sizing and Warping Kamagar Sanghatana.

The above trade unions working in Ichalkaranji are affiliated to the different national level trade unions. The following chart denotes the affiliation of the trade unions working in Ichalkaranji.

CENTRAL LEVEL TRADE UNIONSCITUINTUC

1. Lal Bavata General
Kamagar Union(1967)

- ii) The Deccan Girani Kamagar
Samittee (Powerloom Sector
(1948)
- iii) Rashtriya Processing Kamagar
Sanghatana (1967)
- iv) Sizing and Warping Kamagar
Sanghatana (1980)
- v) The Deccan Girani Kamagar
Sanghatana 1964 (Spinning Mill)
- vi) Soot Girani Kamagar Sanghatana
1968.
- vii) Rashtriya Soot Kamagar
Sanghatana 1977.

A) CITU :4.1 LAL BAVATA GENERAL KAMAGAR UNION :

This union is affiliated to CITU and oriented to communist party which is based on Marxist Philosophy. The main intention behind the formation of the union was to make the powerloom workers aware of their rights and privileges. Before the establishment of the union there was no security for them in their jobs nor



did they enjoy the privileges like leave, overtime, allowance and other etc.

It was the primary purpose of the establishment of this union to ensure labourers these rights. Before union was formed employers used to distribute some paltry gifts like Dhotis, Sweets to the workers on the occasions of Divali as bonus.

Com. S.P.Patil, Com. Shantaramabapu Garud and Com. K.L. Malabade made continuous efforts to establish the union under the chairmanship of Com. S.P.Patil. In this way the said union was established on 23rd Dec. 1967.

a) MEMBERSHIP :

This union was started with 1000 members but in the course of time their membership of the said union increased continuously.

TABLE NO.4.1

THE TABLE SHOWING THE MEMBERSHIP LAL BAVATA GENERAL KAMAGAR UNION

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of workers</u>
1967	1000 (100)
1970	1500 (150)
1980	5000 (500)
1989	7000 (700)

Note : Figures in the bracket indicate index number.

SOURCE : The table is calculated with the help of data calculated from the Office of the concerned union at Ichalkaranji.

If we take into account the figures indicated in the above table we can find that in the beginning i.e. in 1967 the membership of the union was 1000 and in 1970 it increased 1500 i.e. during the period of three years it rose by 50%.

The membership further increased to 5000 in 1980 and 7000 to 1989. Thus in the course of last 22 years membership rose by 600%,

b) FINANCE :

Before 1986 only Re. one P.M. contribution was taken from the members of the union. From 1986, contribution was raised to Re. 2 P.M.

1. BREAK UP OF THE FEE FIVE PAISE :

Transferred to CITU of Maharashtra.

2. Five paise transferred to Delhi office of CITU.
3. and Balance was spent for the management expenses, publicity and economic aid given to the members.

Initially this union was formed to safeguard the interest of the member workers of the textile industry at Ichalkaranji. It also performed other functions like educational, social, economic as well as welfare. In social field it has provided assistance in case of natural calamities. In case of welfare activities the union has been providing guidance regarding the health by

organising medical camps, economic assistance to the workers for the purpose of building, houses, financial assistance to the members workers during the period of strikes and lockouts. It has been providing a library facility to the workers and their family members to improve their understanding.

b) INTUC :

4.2 DECCAN GIRANI KAMAGAR SAMITTEE (POWERLOOMS SECTOR)

a) MEMBERSHIP

If we take into account the membership of the concerned union in Ichalkaranji the membership of the union has been continuously decreasing from the very beginning of the union. The Table shows clearly decreasing trend of the membership of the union.

TABLE NO.4.2

THE TABLE SHOWING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE DECCAN GIRANI KAMAGAR SAMITTEE (POWERLOOM SECTOR)

Year	No.of workers
1948	4400(100)
1960	4000(90)
1970	1500(34)
1980	1300(29)
1989	900(20)

Note : Figures in the bracket indicate index number.

It fell continuously from 4400 to 4000 in 1960 and further to 1500 in 1970 the decrease was further accentuated in the following decades. In 1989 the membership stands to 900 only. The falling trade is attributed to the following reasons.

1. In 1964 the Deccan Cooperative Spinning Mill was established most of the workers working in powerloom industry at Ichalkaranji were employed in it. Automatically they became member of the union in this mill.
2. The other reason for the decreasing trend is the development of processing as well as sizing units which are subsidiary for the textile (weaving) industry in Ichalkaranji and their independent unions were formed.
3. In 1968 other trade union in the same industries (Powerloom) was formed viz. "Lal Bavata ^{General} Trade Union."

b) FINANCE :

In the beginning the membership fee was fifty paise per month. But as a result of increase in the expenditure of the union their membership fee per month was raised from 50 paise to Rs. 1. The funds collected from the members are spent on rent of the office, building, telephone charges, Travelling charges, expenditure on court cases in connection with the workers etc. Five paise are transferred to INTUC office National level. The union has been doing educational functions, social functions and welfare functions etc.

4.3 RASHTRIYA PROCESSING KAMAGAR SANGHATANA :

Processing unit is one of the important units in the textile industry in Ichalkaranji. It divides itself into two parts i.e. hand processing and power processing. More than 4000 workers are working in this unit. Upto 1967 "Lal Bavata Union (Lal Nishan Party) had the control of the processing workers. But in July 1967 INTUC which is locally named as Rashtriya processing Kamagar Sanghatana acquired the control. Today this union is one of the important unions in processing units.

a) MEMBERSHIP :

Lal Nishan Party Union had been working in processing industry of Ichalkaranji before 1967. The members of this union joined together under the banner of INTUC by discarding the leadership of 'Lal Nishan Party and by establishing the Union in 1967 with the title 'Rashtriya Processing Kamagar Sanghatana. This union got its recognition as a representative union. The members of the union were only 350 in 1967. But today in 1989 the number of the members is 1400 the data on this was given in Table No. 4.3.

TABLE NO.4.3

THE STATEMENT SHOWING THE GROWTH OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE RASHTRIYA
PROCESSING KAMAGAR SANGHATANA

Year	No. of workers (Members)
1967	350 (100)
1970	400 (114)
1980	700 (200)
1989	1400 (400)

SOURCE : As per union Office record at Ichalkaranji.

Note : The figures given the bracket indicate index number.

Calculated taking the year 1967 as the base year.

If we go into the details of the increasing trend of the membership of the union we find that there are two major reasons for this increasing trend.

1. There is continuous increase in the processing units in Ichalkaranji.
2. Rashtriya Processing Kamagar Sanghatana is the only union working in this field at Ichalkaranji and there is no other alternative for the workers to join any other union.

b) FINANCE :

Before 1985 only Rs. one P.M. contribution was being collected from the members of the union from 1985 rate of contribution collected was Rs. 2 The employers send Rs. 2 per worker P.M. in the

name of union by deducting these from the wages of the workers. The union spends contribution taken from each worker is spent as follows.

- 10 paise for central and state body.
- 30 paise for management expenses
- 50 paise for court fees
- 10 paise publicity
- 100 paise balance.

One Re balance is spent for the welfare of the worker.

c) FUNCTIONS :

Rashtriya processing Kamagar Sanghatana has been performing a number of educational, Social, Economic and Welfare functions for their members.

I) EDUCATIONAL FUNCTIONS :

To improve the skill of workers the union has been providing the educational facilities by conducting training courses and industrial tours for the workers.

II) SOCIAL FUNCTIONS :

In these functions the union has been trying to remove casteism and arranging the cultural shows.

III) ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS :

To safeguard the economic interest of the members the union fought for proper wage rates, bonus and other facilities to the workers.

As the union is oriented towards Gandhian Philosophy it believes in non violence principle for redressing the labourers grievances and problems.

IV) WELFARE FUNCTIONS :

1. Establishment of Rashtriya processing workers housing society.
2. Provisign of library facilities and sports facilities to the workers and their families.
- 3 The union has established an educational fund and provided assistance to the worker's children studying in schools.
4. The union has also established the processing workers credit society to meet their financial requirements.

4.4 SIZING AND WARPING KAMAGAR SANGHATANA :

The important stage in the textile industry is the state of sizing. This unit of sizing was started very late in Ichalkaranji Vijay Jagtap, Bhupal Nipane and Ganpatrao Jog took initiative to establish this union . With their efforts the union came into existence in 1980.

a) MEMBERSHIP :

The number of members of this union was 1400 in 1980 at the time of establishment. But in 1989 the number stands about 2400 It is noticed that this growth is nearby doubled. Along with the growth of textile industry, the number of sizing units also went on increasing as a result of this membership of the concerned union rose.

b) FINANCE :

Annual contribution of Rs. 12 is collected for meeting the expenses of the union. The union spends this contribution on administration, remuneration of the union leaders and economic assistance to workers at the time of strikes, lockouts etc.

c) FUNCTIONS :

1. The union has been providing training to the members by conducting the training camps to improve work efficiency.
2. The union has also tried to better wage rates, allowance, and bonus for the workers.
3. The union provided economic assistance to the workers who were in economic crisis.
4. The union has also tried to solve the problems of the workers who were not the members of the union.
5. The union has established sizing workers credit society.
6. The Union offers a cash reward Rs. 500.00 to virtuous workers.
7. The Union provides educational help to the workers' children

4.5 THE DECCAN GIRANI KAMAGAR SAMITTEE (SPINNING MILL SECTOR)

The Decaan cooperative spinning mill was established in 1964. This is the pioneer spinning mill in Ichalkaranji.

a) MEMBERSHIP :

At the time of establishment the number of the members of the union was 340 Later on name of the Union was changed as "The Deccan Girani Kamagar Samittee" Today the number of member of this union is 2500. The data of the growth of membership of this union are given in Table No. 4.4. as below.

TABLE NO.4.4

THE STATEMENT SHOWING THE INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP OF THE DECCAN GIRANI KAMAGAR SAMITTEE (SPINNING MILL)

Year	Membership
1964	340 (100)
1970	820 (241)
1980	2040 (600)
1989	2500 (735)

NOTE : Figure in the bracket indicate index numbers.

SOURCE : ~~As per~~ union office record.

The main reason for the increasing trend in the membership of the union is that employment in The Deccan Cooperative Spinning Mills increased, Mill has increased production capacity by installing additional spindles. The spindles increased from 37816 in 1964 to 83124 in 1989.

b) FINANCE :

Contribution of Rs. 2 is collected from every member of the union. The annual contribution Rs. 24. Employers deduct, this

contribution from the workers' wages and deposit in the account of union.

The union spends this contribution on the administration of union office, the remuneration of the full time leader, court cases and welfare functions. Five paise out of the contribution taken from each worker are transferred to the national level union. In addition to this, union has built its own building with the help of the workers contribution and economic assistance from the Deccan Mill.

c) FUNCTIONS :

1. Union provides job training facilities to workers.
- 2 Union seeks to get workers' welfare by placing demands to the mill.
3. The union seeks to improve wage rates.
- 4 Information relating labour Acts etc. is given to workers.
5. The union has made available library facilities to the members and their families.
- 6 The union organises health camps for workers.
- 7 The union organises camps for the social enlightenment.
- 8 The union has established the credit society of the workers.

4.6 SOOT GIRANI KAMAGAR SANGHATANA :

a) MEMBERSHIP :

In the spinning mill sector after the establishment of The Deccan Cooperative Spinning Mill. The Kolhapur Zilla Shetakari Vinkari Sahakari Soot Girani was established in 1975.

Soot Girani Kamagar Sanghatana was also established in 1975. The number of members of this union was just 750. It rose continuously in subsequent period in 1988. It was as high as 2724. Thus for the entire period 1975 to 1988 it recorded 362% of growth.

TABLE NO.4.5

THE STATEMENT SHOWING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOOT GIRANI KAMAGAR
SANGHATANA

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Membership</u>
1975	750 (100)
1980	2558 (341)
1988	2724 (362)

Note : Figures in the bracket indicates index number.

SOURCE : The data is obtained from the office record of the Union.

As the spindles increased from 27816 in 1975 to 75240 in 1988. number of workers also increased therefore, membership also increased.

b) FINANCE :

The annual contribution of Rs. 12 is collected from every workers. The union incurs expenses on administration of union office, remuneration to the leader, court cases and workers welfare.

c) FUNCTIONS :

Like other labour organisations the union also performs

educational, welfare and other functions. It has organised Adult education camps family planning camps and also blood donation camp. For improving wage rates, allowance, bonus, etc. The union has started a library for the workers similarly it organises, sport and cultural activities for workers.

4.7 RASHTRYIA SOOT GIRANI KAMAGAR SANGHATANA :

The Ichalkaranji Cooperative spinning mills has been established and this is the third spinning mill in Ichalkaranji. There were near about 1000 workers employed in the respective spinning mill.

a) MEMBERSHIP :

Rashtriya Soot Girani Kamagar Sanghatana was established in 1978. There is 100% membership of the union in the mill. The membership of the union was 814 in 1979. As spondle capacity increased from 40128 in 1979 to 56432 in 1989.

The number of members has also increased 2000 in the corresponding period.

b) FINANCE :

The annual contribution of Rs. 12 is gathered from every worker at the time of Divali, Management deducts contribution from the wages of the workers and transferres to the union. The contribution gathered from the workers is spent on the welfare

of the members, union office expenses, remuneration to full time leader and court cases etc.

c) FUNCTIONS :

I) EDUCATIONAL FUNCTIONS :

1. Union organises training class for the workers.
2. Health camps.
3. Lecturers on social issues.

II) ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS :

1. The union manages to get proper pay, allowances and bonus for the workers from the employers.
2. The union undertakes various activities for the workers' welfare.

III) WELFARE FUNCTIONS :

1. If a worker retires after ten years' services, he has been given 'Retirement Fund' on behalf of the workers.
2. If a worker dies due to some reason while he is in service contribution of Rs. 5 per worker is given to the family of the deceased.
3. The union has established credit society in order to meet the economic needs of the workers.
4. The union gives economic assistance for the higher education of the members' children.
5. The union gives economic assistance from 'Kamagar Kalyan Mandal' for those members who fall sick for a long time.

R E F E R E N C E S

1. Interview with Com. L.K.Malabade, Com. Datta Mane, Com. Suryaji Salunkhe, Who are the leaders of Lal Bavaa General Kamagar Union in Ichalkaranji.
2. Interview with Shri. Shamrao Kulkarni who is the General Secretary of Rashtriya Processing Kamagar Sanghatana.
3. Interview with Shri. Ganpatrao Jog who is the president of Zizing and Warping Kamagar Sanghatana.
4. Interview with Shri. Vasantrao Ghorpade Who is the General Secretary of the Deccan Girani Kamagar Samittee (Powerloom Sector).
5. Interview with D.V.Jere who is the General Secretary of The Deccan Girani Kamagar Samittee(Spinning Mill Sector)
6. Interview with Shri. A.K.Metakar who is the General Sectetary of the Soot Girani Kamagar Sanghatana.
7. Interview with Shri. Ganpatrao Jog who is the President of the Rashtriya Soot Kamagar Sanghatana.
8. Souvenir ; All India Powerloom Weavers, Convention at Ichalkaranji 23rd and 24th May, 1987.
9. Souvenir : Rashtriya Processing Kamagar Sanghatana , 1985.