

CHAPTER No.1

IMPORTANCE AND GROWTH OF POWER LOOMS IN  
VITA CITY

CHAPTER - 1

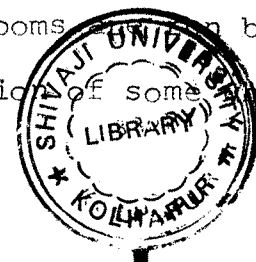
1.1 : A ] IMPORTANCE OF POWER-LOOMS IN VITA CITY :

Vita is not a big city. Its population is 24,081 according to 1981 census. About 2500 labours are working in power-loom sector, 10,000 or more than 10,000 population is dependant on power-loom sector directly or indirectly. So powerloom has much importance in the economy of Vita City.

Vita is 60 Kilometers away from Sangli, District place. As growing industrial center, Vita has got concentration of industrial labour, employed in different catagories of factories, constructions, trade ,commerce, transport and house hold industry.

In this sector, owners and out side labours are working. So not only labours but also owners have to face some problems which are dealing with power loom sector. These problems are price of yarn, wage of labour, use of electricity, price of finished cloth etc. Basically power loom industry is a small scale or cottage industry, mostly situated in the rural area of country. It consists of units having four or fewer number of looms.

" In Sangli district the handloom centres are Budhgoan, Miraj, K. Mahankal, Sangli, Islampur, Bableshwar, Vita, Kundal and Kadegaon. Atmost all the looms are run by independant weaver families with the exception of some



engage weavers on daily wages or on piece work at Sangli, Miraj or Vita."<sup>1</sup>

In the past ~~time~~, power loom owners were handloom owners and these were run for fulfilling their basic needs, like food, shelter cloth. But after words it has got the commercial proposition. Because of this sector thousands of new and small enterprenurs have come up in rural area. Quite a large number of power-loom owners are from communities of traditional weavers. Many of them are Primarily from farming community and from the families engaged in liberal professions.

At present more than 2500 power looms are operating in this city and 2500 workers are dependant on it, indirectly. In other words, almost every citizen of Vita is connected with the local power-loom industry. Very few owners of power-loom have more than four looms.

The number of power looms in Vita has been increasing rapidly during the last four decades. In 1971 they were 833 with 18726 population. It has now crossed 2500 and population of city is 24,081. This inter-relationship between growth of power-loom and population also established the fact that Vita is especially a place of power loom owners and weavers.

" The rapid growth of this sector during the past three decades has helped to achieve many socio-economic

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1 Maharashtra State Gazetters : Sangli District -p.363



goals of our planning. It is with this growth, that the rural area has learnt the first lesson of industrialisation. The growth of power-loom industry had an ideal 'ripple effect' on the development in the other fields of economy, such as transport, banking, small scale manufacturing industries, small traders, communication etc. The industry offers a ready work to all who are ready to work and hence it is pertinent to note that the number of beggars are significantly smaller in the power loom center as compared to number of in other towns and cities, power looms therefore have proved to be an effective way of implementing the programme of 'GARIBI HATAO'.<sup>1</sup>

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" The average value of the cloth produced by the sector never exceeds Rs.6/- per metre. In fact because of the low price of the power loom the price of all mill sector cloth have been kept in check. Thus, the power loom industry has been providing a much desired relief to a common consumer of the cloth."<sup>2</sup>

19. At present at Vita there are seven sizing units 70 to 80 labours are working in that sizing units. Only weaving and sizing were done in the city, but other process like spinning,

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1. Memorandum : The problems powerloom industry - prepared by Ichalkaranji power loom Association weavers co-op.Ltd., Ichalkaranji, 1981.
2. Memorandum : The problems powerloom industry - prepared by Ichalkaranji power loom Association weavers co-op.Ltd., Ichalkaranji, 1981.

colouring, dying, bleaching were done at various places for above mentioned process clothes were send to Ichalkaranji or any other convenient places.

In Vita there are no private yarn traders because private traders are not able to face the changing price of yarn. But some-co-operative societies were selling yarn to their members. The co-operative societies are purchasing yarn daily. Rate of yarn is not in stable position. So avoiding the loss, societies are purchasing yarn daily. changing price of yarn, is a great problem in power loom sector, which has <sup>been</sup> decentralised in the various places of country.

Number of co-operative societies and banks are busy in helping the power loom sector. They are trying to extend the boundries of the business. In Vita there are four co-operative societies working, namely :-

- 1) Devang Samaj Vinkar Society, Vita
- 2) Chowndeshwari Hathmag-dharak Shakari Society, Vita
- 3) Vita Yantramag Aoudhyogic Shakari Sangh Ltd., Vita,
- 4) Kranti Vinkar Utpadak Sahakari Sanstha, Vita.

All above mentioned societies are established by power loom owners except the Kranti Vinkar Utpadak Sanstha, Kranti Vinkar is the socialism oriented, because all the labours who are working at Sanstha's loom must be share holders. There is one rule in sanstha's constitution i.e. share holders must have work on the loom as weaver. And at the end of <sup>the</sup> year calculating benefit all that benefit is distributed among the

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labours as a Bonus, some amount to be kept aside from that benefit for the future development of Sanstha.

At present Kranti Vinkar Society and Vita Yantremag Society are leading societies in the city. Especially Kranti Vinkar has very bright future because of their well planning and working efficiency and their attitude to-words the Job. At present the power-loom industry has to take many problems. It requires analysis of problems and suggestion of remedies. Actually the worker is a major factor in the process of production. It requires due consideration. The first five year plan indicated that the labour is the principle instrument in the fulfilment of the target of the plant and achievement of economic process. The improvement of labour condition, therefore becomes important for the development of India's Economy.

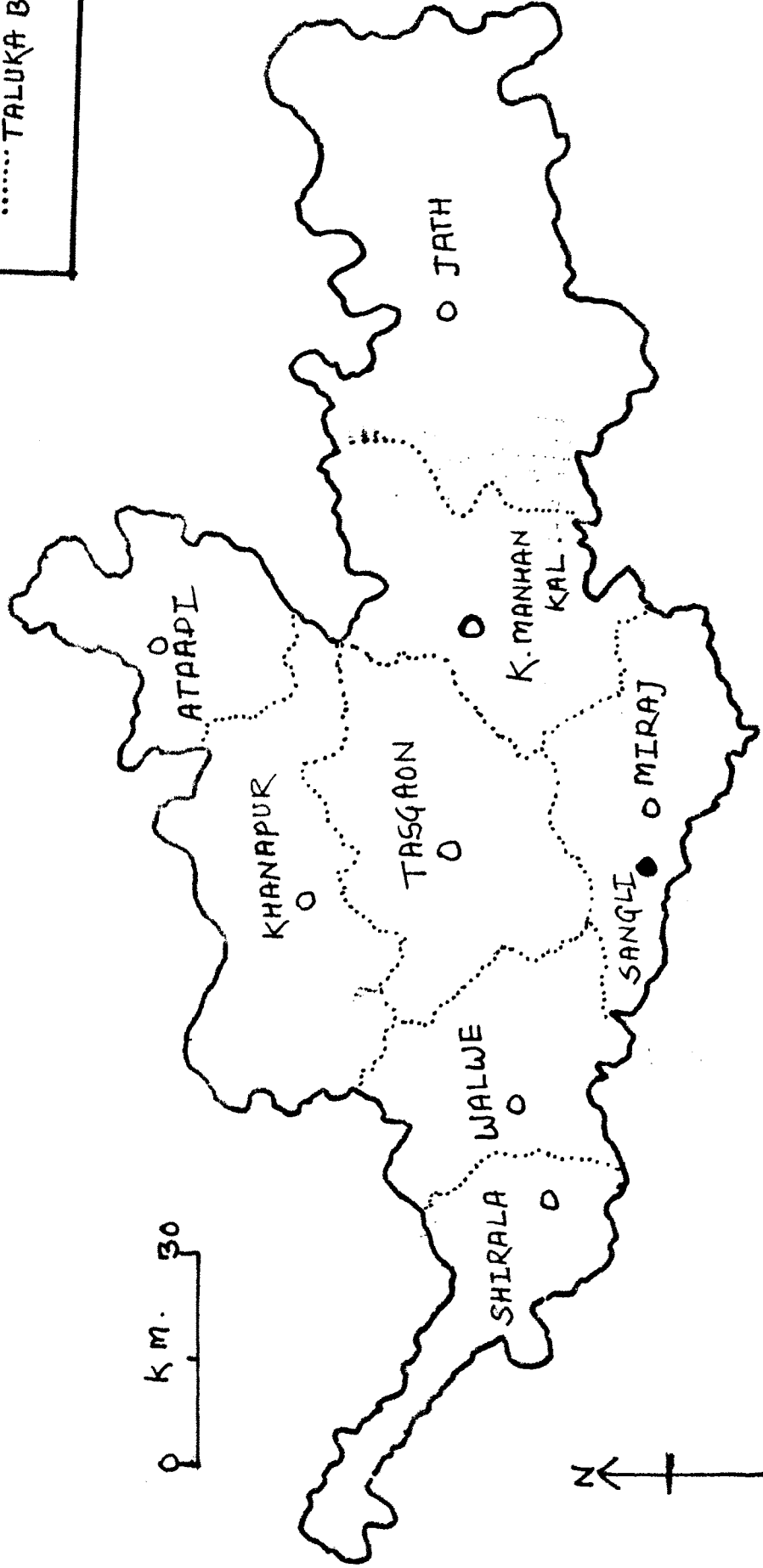
1:2: WHY I HAVE SELECTED THIS PROBLEM :

Vita is a city having 24,081 population according to 1981 census. It is in Khanapur Taluka. But all the taluka level Govt. offices are in the Vita. Some of my village friends have been working in city as powerloom workers and we know that the strike of 'GIRNI KAMGAR' in Bombay, their strike was for the pension, wages and accommodation facility. All these mentioned reasons attracted me to study the power loom weavers real conditions. A kind of change has been brought in Vita by the strike. They had also kept their looms closed during the strike period. And recently our prime Minister Hon. Rajiv Gandhi announce new cotton policy.

# SANGLI - DIST.

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All situations and circumstances mentioned above were interesting and its attraction forced me to study the above situations. So as a researcher, I had tried to study the various problems which had faced by power loom weavers.

Since I had been in touch with the situation I know that there are two groups in the city those are economically rich and poor. Vita is the well known city for the power-loom industry as it is distributed by the industrial crisis by strike, morchas, bandh and so on.

#### 1.3: LOCATION OF THE CITY:

Vita is situated North side of the Sangli district place. It is in Khanapur taluka. But all taluka offices are in the Vita city. It is 60 to 70 Kilometers away from Sangli district place .

Location of city is shown in Khanapur taluka's map Vita is the central city of Khanapur taluka. Gardi and Bhambarole are at the north side. To the south side Karve, Khambale and Bhalavani, at the same time Kurli and Benavi situated at the eastern side, and Nevani and Kalmbi are at the west side of Vita city.<sup>1</sup> (see. Map on page no. 3, and 7)

#### 1.4: HISTORICAL BACK GROUND:

It seems that Vita is minimum one hundred years old city because recently Vita Nagar Parishad celebrated its centenary year. Vita Nagar Parishad had established in 1854.

In 1981 population of Vita city was 4,417<sup>1</sup>. But the writer of the ' Shatabddi Granth ' writes in that Granth, city has old history city is formed or established in 1500 B.C.Means in the days of prabhu Shri Ramchandra. But all the references about the city are not available.<sup>2</sup>

Vita was the important place in the Maratha history. We know that Shri Chh. Shivaji died in 1680. After his death some conflicts were taken place. In this connection Chh. Rajaram Maharaj became King of Satara and Satara was the capital city of his Kingdom. But Rajaram Maharaj had left his capital city for the period of 8 to 10 years. So he appointed a person for the post of Pratinidhi. And Parshuram Trambak was the first pratinidhi and his native place was the Kinhi which was the neer by Satara.

After so many historical evidence Vita, became a capital of Pratinidhi's Kingdom in 1763. And Bhagwantrao Deshpande was the pratinidhi of Vita.

Finally we can say Vita was a very important place at the time of Maratha history.

#### 1:5 DEVELOPMENT OF VITA CITY

Vita has political and historical background people from all community have been living in the city namely Brahmin, traders, Mang, Mahar, Sali, Koshi and all have been

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1. Vita Nagar Parishad Centenary - Report 1954 - p.27
  2. Vita Nagar Parishad Centenary - Report 1954 - p.10

- By Shaikh, M.A.

working according to their traditional profession. But mainly handlooms were run by the Koshti samaj and weaving is their traditional occupation.

'Vita muncipalti was established in 1854, but 1854 to 1885 city or muncipalti was controlled by the local Government namely Satara District Collector. On 10th March 1885 there was held first election of Vita municipality. It was the effect of ' Hindi Rastriya Sabha ' which was established in the same year and first ' Adhivestian' of Hindi Rastriya Sabha's was held at Bombay in 28th-12-1885 and Umesh Chandra Banarji was the first president of that Sabha who was the lawyer of Calcutta High Court'.<sup>1</sup>

After 1885, every three years after election was held, But up to 1919 collector was the president of elected members. So in the real sense it was not democratic. But after 1919 parishad has got right to choose their president among the elected members.<sup>2</sup> Shri Vittal Vishnu Inamdar was the first president of Vita municipality who was elected member. His period was 3.4.1923 to 1925.<sup>3</sup>

#### 1.6: DEVELOPMENT OF POWER LOOM INDUSTRY:

Weaving is the traditional bussiness of Koshti samaj and it is running for satisfying the daily needs. Though the looms were functioning in Vita before indepdence, actual growth of looms had been taken place after independence.

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1. Vita Nagar Parishad Report - p.49.
  2. Ibid p.50
  3. Ibid p.78

At early stage weaving process was done on the 'Dabra' mag, and it was traditional method, especially it was adopted by the Koshti people and that was for the family survival. Weaving process was done by the owner of that mag and his other family members were helping him for other processes such ' Dabra mag ' were run in city up to the 1940.<sup>1</sup>

Some technical changes have taken place in dabra mag and newly developed hand looms were started in city. Shri Rokade Eknath Mahadeo had brought a new hand-loom in city. First time in 1940<sup>2</sup>. Hand-loom had only developed mechanism. But it could not provide more employment. But production of hand<sup>loom</sup> is comparatively more than dabra mag. Mainly there was one benefit i.e. in short period more cloth was produced. Such hand-loom were run in Vita ,Atpadi,Jath, Kundal and in other places in Sangli district. Coloured Sarries and rough cloth were the main production of hand looms.

Hand-loom were also run for family survival. But need of cloth was not satisfied and changing attitude of people to words the looms had brought new mechanism of weaving called the power looms. Such type of power-loom pair was firstly brought by Mr.Kalu Digambar Methre in Vita, in 1946.<sup>3</sup>

From 1946 a traditional occupation of hand-loom were in slack position. It has many reasons, some of them are

- 
1. Methre K.D. X Personal Interview.
  2. Methre K.D. X
  3. Methre K.D. - Personal interview.

given below i.e. :-

- 1) Power-loom has new mechanism,
- 2) A cloth produced on power-loom is superior and more good quantity/quality than hand-loom.
- 3) Cost of production is less than hand loom cloth,
- 4) And finally changing attitude of public. In short more production, low price, super quality and Government policy were helpful for development of power-loom.

Information about the total number of powerloom from the starting period is not available in municipality record. But it is available from 1971.

TABLE No.1.1

GROWTH OF POWER LOOMS ( 1971 to 1985 )

Sr.No.	Year	No.of power-loom
1.	1971	833
2.	1975	1066
3.	1980	1640
4.	1985	2500

( Source: Municipal Registration Record )

1.7 GROWTH OF POPULATION IN VITA

With the help of table ( No.1.1) It is concluded that number of power looms are increasing rapidly from 1971. As a

result of this growth of population also is increasing in city. <sup>simultaneously.</sup> In 1891 Vita city's population was 5267. But in 1981 it was 24,081.

With the help of table No.1.2 we can understand the population growth.:

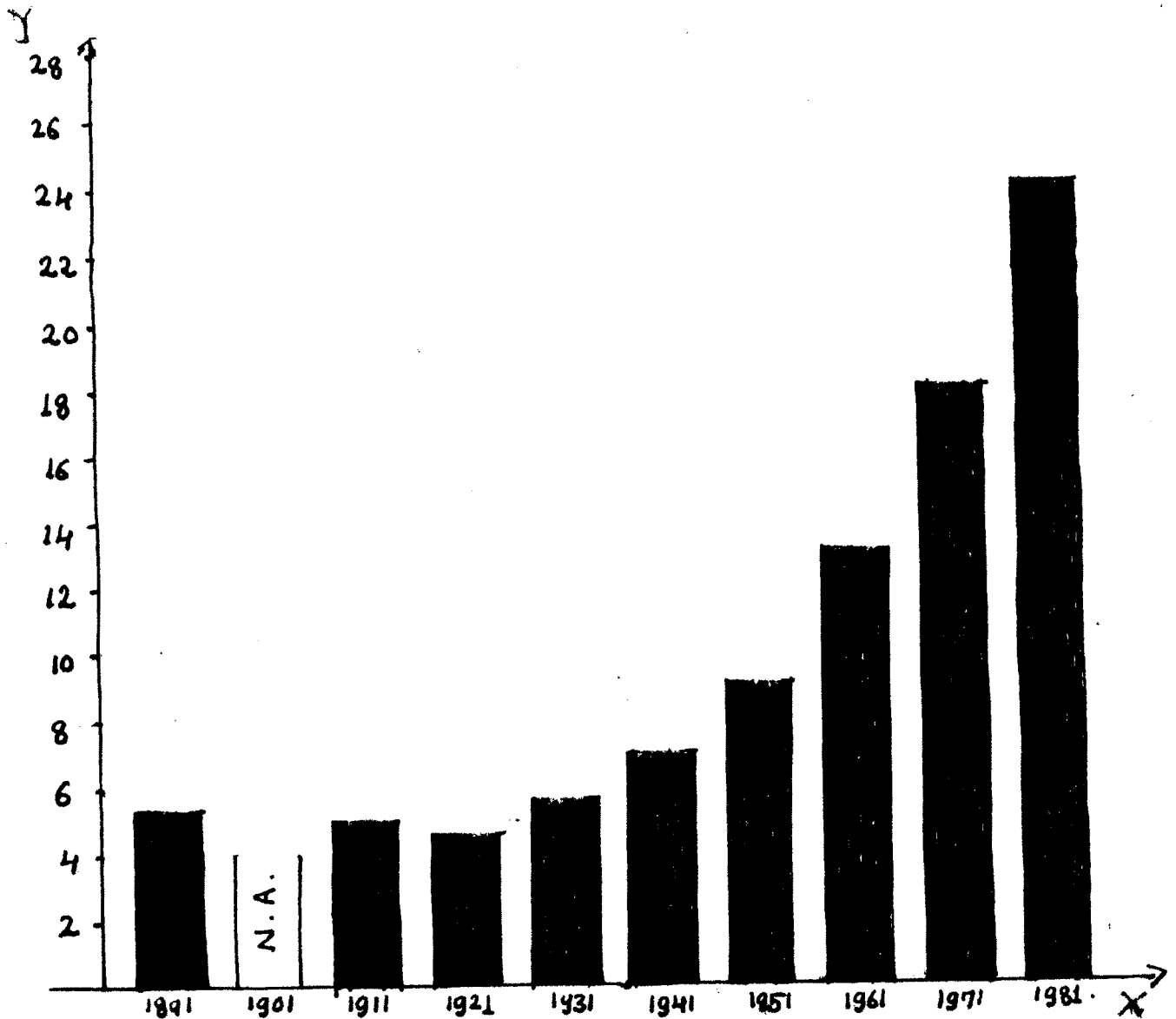
TABLE NO.1.2: GROWTH OF POPULATION IN VITA

Sr.No.	YEAR	POPULATION	% 10 year	% of growth 1 Yr.
1	1881	5267	-	-
2	1911	4992	- 5.2	- .52
3	1921	4271	- 14.44	- 1.44
4	1931	6022	+ 41.00	+ 4.1
5	1941	7399	+ 22.86	+ 2.28
6	1951	9296	+ 25.63	+ 2.6
7	1961	13391	44.06	+ 4.4
8	1971	18726	+ 39.84	+ 3.9
9	1981	24081	+ 28.59	+ 2.9

( Source - Census reports of Vita Municipal Corporation)

With the help of table No.1.2 it can be concluded that population in Vita city is constantly growing after 1931. Increasing number of power looms are one of the reasons for increasing population. In 1951-61. There was high rate of increasing population i.e. 4.4 percent power loom sector is not only able to provide Job opportunity for all. The people from agricultural and those having less acres

# POPULATION GROWTH OF VITA



X → YEAR. - 1CM = 10 YEARS.

Y → POPULATION - 1CM = 2000

of land or landless. Labours come to Vita and find out employment, In 1911 and 1921 in two decades increasing rate of population was - 5.2 and - 1.44 respectively because of effect of plague - In 1981 ~~Populy~~ was 24.081.

1.:8 : VARIOUS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIE'S CONCERNING WITH POWER-LOOM.

There are various reasons for development of power loom industries in Vita. But one main reason for development of i.e. power loom owners co-operative societies which are working in city is In the city there are four co-operative societies of power loom owners. There is no single society working for the power loom weaver. The names of these societies are :-

- 1) Devang Samaj Vinkar Society,
- 2) Chowndeshwari Hathmag Dhark Sahakari Society,
- 3) Vita Yantramag Aoudhyogic Sahakari Sangh Ltd., Vita,
- 4) Kranti Vinkar Utpadak Sahakari Sanstha Ltd., Vita.

1.8:1 : DEVANG SAMAJ VINKAR SOCIETY:

" On 23rd November, ,1959, Devang Samaj Vinkar Society was established by handloom owners and majority of members were from Koshti community. This society is providing yarn in the form of loan to its members. Total capital is Rs. 15,750/- in the form of share and Rs.30,600/- in the Government capital. Increased power looms made bad effects on handloom. So it is on the way to collapse.<sup>1</sup>

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1 Record of Devang Samaj Vinkar Society.



1.8:2: CHOWDESHWARI HATHMAG DHARAK SHAKARI SOCIETY, VITA:

"Handloom owners from the city started this society on the 2nd May 1973 with 110 members. Society has Rs.13,300/- share capital and Rs.11,350 Government capital. This society also did not provide loan in the hard cash. But in the form of yarn or raw material. This society has no good future because hand loom bussiness is completely collapsed;<sup>1</sup>

1.8:3: VITA YANTRAMAG AOUHYOGIC SHAKARI SANGH LTD, VITA:

This sangh or society is todays leading society in Vita. It was established in 28th October, 1971 having 1660 members. Maximum members are the owners of powerloom. There is no certainty in the price of yarn at market due to this uncertainty, yarn is purchased daily such uncertainty or price fluctuations are harmful to owner of looms and society also.

Society provides yarn to members but does not purchase produced cloth. Such produced cloth is sold at various convenient market places. This society has 19,9475/- Ruppes share capital in the year of 1984-85. With this capital society is working for its members.

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1 Chowdeshwari Hathmag Dhark Shakari Society's Record.

TABLE NO.1.3:

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1985-86
1.Share Capital ( Rs.)	32,800.00	68,850.00	1,14,075.00	1,99,445.00
2.Yarn purchased (Rs.)	52,41,265.76	81,62,740.00	21,1,13,047.35	39,69,5044.00
3.Yarn Sold to members ( Rs.)	52,22,095.50	83,48,579.85	20,9,34,685.50	3,99,83,864.50

1.8:4: KRAMTI VINKAR UTPADAK SAHAKARI SANSTHA LTD., VITA:

It is one of the best societies in Vita, having 139 members. ( 127 Male, 11 Female and State Government ). 70 persons are working as labours and staff members, Capital is collected from share holders and Govt. by selling shares. i.e. Share capital from share holders is Rs.2,67,400/- and 79,200 from Govt.Total it is 10,59,400.00 with all these above co-operative sanstha is established in ,1977.

Shri Ramchandra Manuti Yadav is the Chairman of the society is very intelligent and good administrator. This society is based or working on the basis of socilism each and every member of society is working as weaver and every one has equal right. Chairman him self is also working as a weaver.

Share holders or members of the society must have work as weaver. This is the first condition of membership of society. This condition must be fulfilled by each member, other-wise he won't be allowed membership.All the equipments

are owned by the society.

Transaction of Kranti Vinkar Society shows, that the increasing production of cloth. Table No.1:4 shows that quantity of yarn purchased and quantity of cloth produced at various years. Such figures indicate that increasing transaction of society. This society sells it's produced eloth in the various market.

Table No.1:4: TRANSACTION OF KARANTI VINKAR SOCIETY  
( Year 1978 - 1985 )

Sr. No.	Year	Purchased Yarn in Rs.	Produced cloth ( Meter )	Price of Produced cloth (Rs.)
1.	1978	1,61,065.65	51,104.90	1,73,387.44
2.	1979	3,93,428.19	1,30,578.20	4,51,702.22
3.	1980	4,46,469.68	1,42,294.70	5,05,996.09
4.	1981	4,92,760.60	1,51,114.50	5,60,595.30
5.	1982	6,90,251.17	2,26,406.00	8,65,612.30
6.	1983	11,11,529.22	3,86,727.80	13,20,319.58
7.	1984	14,63,901.24	5,03,620.00	17,63,980.03
8.	1985	15,73,109.92	4,80,176.60	18,83,419.01

( Source: Report of Kranti Vinkar Utpadak Sanstha Ltd., Vita  
.1984.85 p.no.2 )

Now-a-days society purchase yarn from local market like Ichalkaranji. But in future society will try to purchase yarn from mill directly and finished or produced cloth should be sold to co-operative consumer store.

In future, society would try to provide various facilities to the members like House, Health centres, Schools for children and try to improve the economic and social conditions of weavers.

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