

CHAPTER I

Introduction

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Introduction:

The regime of Rajarshi Shahu Chhatrapati (1874 -1922) is significant for a number of reasons in the history of Kolhapur State. In this period the social reforms and economic measures were undertaken by the Kolhapur State under his leadership. It was because of these socio-economic reforms Dr. B. R. Ambedkar described him, “as the pillar of social democracy in India.”

Because of the Rajarshi’s revolutionary views and its implementation in the field of Kolhapur changed its original appearance i.e. ‘agricultural’ into Agro-‘industrial’. It was only because of major share hold of Rajarshi Shahu, the entire economy of Kolhapur changed. In the real sense, Rajarshi’s economic policies are the seed of industrialization for the prosper future of Kolhapur.

After visiting England in 1902, Shahu thought of reconstructing Kolhapur on the western pattern but by preserving the Marathi culture and tradition. Establishment of ‘Shri Shahu Chhatrapati Spinning and Weaving Mills’ in Kolhapur on the ospacious day of Dasara by Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaja is the pioneering experiment of industrialization which further promotes the industrial development of Kolhapur State. It is only because of his theory of social reform through economic prosperity Kolhapur has transformed from an agricultural state into the industrial sector in the British regime. In this period the

industrialization and other developments were not considered as the responsibility of the Government.

Significance of Subject:

The cotton textile industry is the oldest industry in India. It has a long history from ancient period. It experienced many ups and downs, before and after independence, still it has an important position in industrial sector in particular and in national economy in general. The cotton textile industry is a forerunner of India's transformation of an agricultural economy to industrial economy. Since it is an agro based industry it brought development in agricultural economy and stings certain changes in the political and economical sectors of rural India. It helped to develop in number of foundations for number of allied industries and services. The employment potential export performance, share in national output and government income of the cotton mills indicates the national output and government income of the cotton mills indicates the national importance of them in national economy.

Recognizing its crucial importance, the New Textile Policy of 1985 states that:

The textile industry occupies a place of unique importance in the economy of country by the virtue of its significant share in industrial production, large work force employed and the fact that it not only caters of clothing needs of the community but also generates substantial surplus for exports. The sustained and balanced growth and development of those industries is, therefore vital to economic growth of the country as also or fulfillment of the most essential need of the people.

Considering these thoughts researcher has tried to study the 'Shri Shahu Chhatrapati Mills' of Kolhapur. Apart from the work done on the development of Kolhapur there is very negligible amount of information regarding the 'Shri Shahu Chhatrapati Mills'. Therefore, the researcher decided to undertake the present study 'Shri Shahu Chhatrapati Mills Kolhapur: A Historical Study' to understand the primary stages of Industrialization in India, which will help to document the history more accurately and with certain valid historical elucidations.

The study of a textile Mill in Kolhapur is important in many respects as it is a part of economic history of the state. The general works on the economic policies of Chh. Shahu throw light on the history of Shahu Mills. But present work deals with every minute aspect of the history of Shahu Mills. So it will be a study in depth of a single institution. A detailed study of the establishment of Shahu Mills, the early phase, the nature of machinery, the objectives of Chh. Shahu mills, labour and labour problems, nature of the production, management of mills etc. aspect is very significant.

Covering its history, with a view to study and understand the various socio-economic and political factors that promoted or adversely affected the development of this Mill in the state period (1906 -1949),the attempt is also made to compare Shahu Mills with contemporary situations in textile sector.

Objectives:

- To study the historical background of Kolhapur.
 - To study the Textile history of Kolhapur State especially the period in between 1906 -1949.
 - To the study of the objectives of the establishment of the Mill.

- To study the economic policies of Chh. Shahu Maharaj.
- To study the economic policies of Chh. Rajaram Maharaj.
- To study the management of the Mill.
- To study the labor and labor movements in Shahu Mill.
- To study the nature of products of Shahu Mill.
- To study contribution of Shahu Mill for the economic prosperity of Kolhapur.

Research Methodology:

The proposed research work is carried out mainly with the help of Historical Method. There is variety of sources for studying the history of Kolhapur. The study begins with the reign of Chh. Shahu. The era of Chh. Rajaram is also important in the history of the Shahu Mill.

The sources of this work are not available in vast amount in the Mills premises, but there is information regarding with the mill is in the administrative reports of the Kolhapur State during 1906 -1949 which were preserved in Kolhapur Archives. Moreover, the original letters and documents pertaining to this period have been studied in the present research work. Gazetteers, Census Reports are the basic information sources. Shahu Mill Files of the years 1905 and 1927 available in Kolhapur Archives are also considered for the present study to investigate the influence of British Government over the Mill.

The contemporary News papers in the State period – ‘Hunter’, ‘Akhand Bharat’ of Madhavrao Bagal are also used to understand the social responses of this new change. Besides this news papers like ‘Dinbandhu’, ‘Pudhari’, ‘Satyawadi’, and ‘Samaj’ are also used for the said purpose.

The documents regarding to the management of the Mills, labour organization is collected with the help of magazines, special editions, Shahu Mill Patrika. There is information of the development and affairs of the labour organization in the biography of Madhavrao Bagal, and Bagal Sangraha in the Barr. Balasaheb Liabrary of Shivaji University is used.

The information regarding the present condition of the Mill is collected with the help of the interviews of the active members of the labour organization like Mr. E. M. D'souza, and from other workers with the help of questionnaires. Some books regarding information about Rajarshi Shahu are used.

Nature and Scope of Subject:

“Shri Chh. Shahu Spinning and Weaving Mills, Kolhapur” is the first textile Mills in the Kolhapur State. It was established by Chh. Shahu Maharaj. Present work aims to study the history of Shri Shahu Chhatrapati Spinning and Weaving Mills.

Though the Shahu Mills has a history of about hundred years the study has been confined up to 1949.

The said research work is divided into eight main chapters followed by observations and final conclusions .Lastly bibliography as well as appendix and questioner also presented which played a vital & important role in the said research work.

Chapter wise Scheme –

CHAPTER –I

Introduction

Introduction- Significance of Subject–Objectives – Research Methodology –Nature and Scope of Subject -Chapter wise Scheme.

CHAPTER – II

Political History of Kolhapur State.

Introduction – Location and Site of Kolhapur – Etymology of words Karveer and Kolhapur – Ancient Period –Medieval Period (1318 - 1659) – Maratha Period (1659 -1812) – Chhatrapaties of Kolhapur.

CHAPTER–III

Background of Textile Industry in Kolhapur State.

Introduction – The History of Cotton Textiles in India – Initiation of Indian Cotton Mills - Industries in Kolhapur State- History of Weaving Industry of Kolhapur State before Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj. – Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu’s textile policy in Princely State of Kolhapur- Rajarshi’s Role towards industries – Rajarshi’s policies towards Textile Industry - Textile related industries during state period (1906 - 49) – Effects of Textile Industry – Conclusion.

CHAPTER –IV

Establishment And Growth Of Shri Shahu Mills In The Reign of Rajarshi Shahu.

Introduction -Role of Merchants in Establishment of Shahu Mill - Role of Merchants in Establishment of Shahu Mill - Role of Rajarshi Shahu Chh. in Establishment of Shahu Mill - Objectives of the Shri Shahu Mill - Erection of Building and Machinery of Shahu Mill - Response from society towards establishment of Shahu Mill- Processing in Spinning Section – Working of Shri Shahu Chhatrapati Mills- Shahu Mill as States Property - Production of Shahu Mills in later period - Impact of Shahu Mill – Conclusion.

CHAPTER –V

Shri Shahu Mills In The Reign of Chh. Rajaram. (1922 -1940)

Introduction –Shahu Mills during 1922-1926 – Introduction of Weaving Section to Shahu Mills- Process in weaving section – Productions from Shahu Mills - Increase in the Machinery - Official policies and its impact on the Cotton Textile Industry – Conditions of Textile Industry - World’s Great Depression and Shahu Mills (1929-33) – Critical situations of Cotton Market - Working of Shahu Mills during Great Depression –Management of Shahu Mills –Spinning Section –Wast Plant- Weaving Section – New Machinery –Quality of Cloth Produced - Economic Conditions –Great Depression: a benefit to Shahu Mills – Shahu Mills during 1933-40 – Productions from Shahu Mills during 1922-1940- Production of cotton and policies of Chh. Rajaram .

CHAPTER – VI

Shri Shahu Mills (1941- 49)

Introduction -Varieties of cloth produced by Shahu Mills – Market - Productions during the years 1940 -1949 - World War II and Shahu Mills – Production of cloths for Defense Services – Effects on working conditions – Welfare of Workers - Dispensary facilities - Compensation paid – Maternity Benefits – Bonus and Dearness allowance – Conclusion.

CHAPTER –VII

Shahu Mill and Labour Movement.

Introduction- Origin and development of Trade Unions in Kolhapur - Miserable conditions of Shahu Mills Workers- Shahu Mill and Bhai Madhavrao Bagal - Kolhapur State policies towards Bagal – Motivations behind establishment of Organization - Secret efforts to build the Union- Kolhapur’s 1st Workers Strike (January 1940)- Support from Society to Strike – Implementation of Factory Act and Demand of workers – Establishment of Shahu Mill Majur Sang- Eminent leaders of the union –(1st March, 1942) - Demands of Madhavrao Bagal as a President –Action of Darbar/Management against Union – Bonus and Dearness Allowance – Effects of Labor union on state – Support from various Institutions to Strike – Action of Darbar – Formation of Shahu Mill Kamgar Sangh -1946 Strike – Emergence of New Leadership –E.M. D’souza - Spilt in Shahu Mill Kamgar Sangh - Welfare Activities for Shahu Mill Workers.

CHAPTER –VIII

Epilogue

Bibliography

Appendix

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