

## CHAPTER - I

### INTRODUCTION :

At present days Leather and Footwear Industries in Kolhapur are concentrated in Jawahar Nagar and Subhash Nagar area of Kolhapur City. His Highness Shri Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj paid keen attention to the upliftment of these industries in Kolhapur. In his period of rule the Tanning Industries were located in Raviwar Peth. In the year 1927 His Highness Shri Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj allotted open plots to 50 tanners free of cost in Jawahar Nagar for the expansion of these industries! These industries could not make progress in the several years of their existence in Kolhapur. It means their growth remained stagnant for the last many years. Leather Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra established its branch in Subhash Nagar Kolhapur to develop these industries on 1st May 1974. But the performance of the

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branch of LIDCOM has been dismal in most cases. LIDCOM has started a production and selling centres in Kolhapur for Kolhapuri Chappals. But unfortunately, these centres are being run in losses. No efforts were taken to find out the causes of the losses of these centres. Both these industries from their birth are confronted with numerous problems. A serious affliction of these industries is that this occupation is being treated as the occupation of backward class people only. Today, it is a need to develop these industries because these industries have a vast potentiality in Kolhapur for growth. A bunch of problems has become an obstacle in the way of developmental work of leather and footwear industries in Kolhapur city. I have observed and identified the present position of leather and footwear industries in Kolhapur city their varied problems and made few suggestions and recommendations.

1) TITLE :

The Dissertation is titled as " A Study of Leather and Footwear Industries in Kolhapur City." So as to cover all the aspects of these industries under the study.

2) HYPOTHESES :

- a) The leather and footwear industries from their birth are confronted with numerous problems such as Raw Material, Manpower, Finance, Technical, Social, Pollution, Export problems and so on.
- b) Primitive methods of production i.e. manual methods.
- c) Lack of technical know-how, low standard of living of labour force.
- d) Poor quality of raw material and finished products i.e. leather and footwears.
- e) Leather and footwear industries are resource based and labour intensive industries.
- f) The position of leather and footwear industries is very weak in all respects in Kolhapur city.
- g) There is a need of a clarion call for allround development of both these industries.

3) THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES :

The aims and objectives of my study of Leather and Footwear Industries in Kolhapur City are explained as follows :-

- i) To peep into the historical backround of these industries.
- ii) To analyse the methods of tanning and production capacity of these industries.
- iii) To identify the grievences of labour force of these industries.
- iv) To enunciate why these industries are neglected from the developments in Kolhapur.
- v) To deal with the social, financial, managerial, water and air & pollution problems.
- vi) To evalute the role of Leather Industrial Development Corporation, Branch Kolhapur in the developmental work of Kolhapur Leather and Footwear Industries.
- vii) To find out the root causes of backwardness of these industries in Kolhapur.

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- viii) To get the idea regarding the availability of raw materials for these industries.
- ix) To elucidate the present position of these industries in Kolhapur.
- x) To observe the <sup>e</sup>lather fashions.  
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- xi) To see the possibility of shifting and expansion of these industries.
- xii) To analyse the government policies regarding taxes, subgidigs, and technological and financial assistance to these industries.
- xiii) To ascertain the export potentiality of these industries.
- xiv) To suggest the quality control in footwear manufacture.
- xv) To analyse <sup>s</sup>production costs of leather and footwears and selling prices.  
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- xvi) To study the role of middlemen in marketing aspects of these industries and their dominance on trading activities.

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- xvii) To study the remuneration of workers engaged in these industries.
- xviii) To assert the number of footwear manufacturing units, tanning industries and number <sup>of</sup> footwear shops in Kolhapur city.
- xix) To identify the actual position of persons engaged in these industries in the society.
- xx) To draw conclusion and make some suggestions and recommendations on the problems of these industries.

4) SCOPE OF THE STUDY :

The title of my Dissertation itself explains the scope of my study of leather and footwear industries in Kolhapur city. I have taken into consideration the period of His Highness Shri Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj in particular, his work to the upliftment of these industries especially, I have studied the growth of these industries from the year 1884 to 1983. I have covered a period 100 years to study all the aspects of these industries. In my study & I have interpreted and analysed the methods of tanning and present position of these industries. I have dealt with the

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role of LIDCOM, Kolhapur branch in developmental work of Kolhapur Leather and Footwear Industries. Particularly I have observed and described the various problems of these industries in detail, such as raw material, manpower, low quality of products, finance, marketing, ugly rivalry, pollution, social, technical, export, leather machinery, heavy taxes, shifting and expansion problems of these industries.

Actually these industries are resource-based and labour intensive industries. These industries have a vast export potentiality. I have also studied the international personalities of these industries. I have listed a number of sophisticated machineries for the production of leather and footwears. As such modern machineries are produced domestically as well as in foreign countries. I have mentioned the need of modern machineries to be installed to produce excellent products. It is also mentioned that ~~there~~ there is an urgent need of a clarion call for allround development of leather and footwear industries in Kolhapur city. It is the need of time to take decisive and remedial action to solve the problems of these industries. I, therefore, made few suggestions and recommendations. Thus I have covered nearly all aspects of leather and footwear

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industries in Kolhapur city only under my study.

5) LIMITATIONS :

Any study of this nature with a wide canvass is likely to have certain limitations and this study is no exception this Dissertation is likely to throw light on the historical background, present position of the leather and footwear industries, methods of tanning, leather fashions, a need of quality control in footwear manufacture, problems of these industries and suggestions and recommendations. All these topics covered are only applicable to the Kolhapur leather and footwear industries under the study. The scope of the study is limited to the leather and footwear industries in Kolhapur city only.

6) METHODOLOGY APPLIED :

Under my Dissertatation work & have covered a study of leather and footwear industries in Kolhapur city. Factual material or data unknown or untapped so far is essential in every study. They can be obtained from many sources, direct or indirect. It is necessary to adopt or evolve a systematic procedure to collect essential data. For collecting new, unknown data required for the study of



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any problem one may use various devices. For each and every type of research we need certain instruments to gather new facts or to explore new fields. The instruments thus employed as means are called tools. Different tools are suitable for collecting various kinds of information for various purposes.

I used following methods and tools to collect the data for my research work.

- 1) Historical Method.
- 2) Sample Survey Method.
- 3) Tools.
  - i) Questionnaire.
  - ii) Observations.
  - iii) Interview.

(1) HISTORICAL METHOD :

I obtained necessary primary data from the persons engaged in these industries directly. And for secondary data I referred many books, journals, articles in newspapers and Government publications.

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(2) SAMPLE SURVEY :

For the detailed investigation and collection of data I chose a sample units from the total number of leather and footwear manufacturing units. I chose 7 leather manufacturing units (including one modernised unit) and 20 footwear manufacturing units (including footwear shops) as samples in my survey of leather and footwear industries in Kolhapur city.

(3) T O O L S :

Following tools are used for collection of data.

1) Questionnaire.

ii) Observations.

iii) Interview.

1) Questionnaire.

As I have covered two industries namely leather and footwear industries in Kolhapur under my study, I prepared two separate questionnaires systematically to gather the expected data, one for leather industry and other for footwear industry.

ii) Observations.

Observation as a tool of research deals with the external behaviour of the persons in appropriate situations ~~or~~ controlled or uncontrolled. It is concerned, as a rule, with neither what a respondent places on paper, nor with what he says in an interview. While studying these industries I used a participant observation method in which I became more or less one of the group under observation and share the situation as a visiting stranger, an attentive listener, an eager learner registering, recording and interpreting behaviour of the group. I tried to understand the frame of references of the group, I was investigating primarily, by joining the members in their daily activities in order to experience things as they do.

iii) Interview.

Interview as a research tool is, in a sense, an oral type of questionnaire or schedule whereby the subject supplies needed information in a face to face relationship. "The dynamics of interviewing, however, involve much more than an oral questionnaire." <sup>1</sup> Before starting the interviewing programme, I established, with the help of desk research, the extent to which the objectives of the

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1. Good, Carter V., Op.Cit - P. 207

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of the programme had already been met. The desk research offered me a valuable background information for the interview programme. I identified clearly the objectives of personal interview programme. The principal questions for the survey were prepared, the sample of production and selling centres was established and respondents were identified. I conducted interview programme during my whole research work period. I wrote proceedings of the interviews preferably with verbatim quotations of respondents. This helped me in the preparation and completion of the final report of the survey.

7) CHAPTER - SCHEME :

The main features of the leather and footwear industries in Kolhapur i.e. from production to marketing aspects of the products of these industries form the framework of this dissertation. This study is divided into eight chapters.

CHAPTER - I

This chapter deals with the introduction of the study in which the title of this study and hypotheses are given and aims and objectives are also explained. The

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scope and limitations of the study have been studied. The methodology applied to this study has also been discussed. And lastly the chapter-scheme is put forth.

#### CHAPTER - II

This chapter narrates the growth and development of these two industries. It describes how the leather and footwear industries have developed in Kolhapur city since the rule of His Highness Shri Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj. It serves to provide the position of the Kolhapur Leather and Footwear Industries in two parts i.e. pre-independence period and post-independence period.

#### CHAPTER - III

This chapter deals with the data collected by me i.e. present position of leather and footwear industries in Kolhapur city. It analyses and interprets the data in detail regarding the number of tanners and footwear manufacturers, number of tanneries, number of persons engaged in these industries and number of footwear shops etc.

#### CHAPTER - IV

This chapter describes three methods of process of tanning and the necessity of sophisticated machineries for

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modern production, their designs and their operating conditions.

#### CHAPTER - V

This chapter explains the finisher's role in creating leather fashion to meet the needs of changing fashions.

#### CHAPTER - VI

This chapter describes an urgent need of quality control with modern machineries in footwear manufacture. Quality of footwears can be maintained if sophisticated machineries are employed properly in footwear manufacture.

#### CHAPTER - VII

This chapter analyses fifteen different problems of Kolhapur leather and footwear industries in detail. Almost all problems are studied in this chapter. The affects of these problems on the growth and development of these industries and their manpower are also elucidated.

#### CHAPTER - VIII

This is the final chapter, which deals specifically

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with conclusions, suggestions and recommendations made by me. This would help in the solution of the various problems related to all aspects of both these industries and will enhance the well being of the working class and total development of these industries which are vital for the development of country's economy as these industries are resource based and labour oriented industries.

Thus, I have covered almost all aspects of Kolhapur leather and footwear industries in this study. And I have made few useful suggestions and recommendations too.

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