

CHAPTER - II

HISTORY

I) PRE INDEPENDENCE PERIOD :

" Let cavillers deny  
That brutes have reason "

( Somer Ville )

His Highness Shri Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, in his period of rule i.e. 1884 to 1922 paid a keen attention to the social economic upliftment of the untouchables. The untouchables were practically forbidden from many of the usual modes even of menial service. Their chief duty was with the dead beasts of the villages - to bear the carcasses of animals out of the village, feed themselves on the rotten flesh of dead animals and at the best, work in their primitive ways on the skins of those animals.

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For many years prior to the last period of His Highness' rule he had been taking a keen interest in the Depressed Classes. He began by making them his coachmen. They were thus placed on the coach-boxes of state carriage on all occasions even during his daughter's marriage so that they were treated as touchables. The elephant is a royal animal in India and it is considered a privilege to serve as 'Mahoot' (an elephant-driver). His Highness employed some of them in the popularly esalted position. This process of habituating the people to the elevation of the untouchables to new and honoured position went on for some years. The year 1916 was the turning point in His Highness' life in many respects, not the least important of which is the determination he seems now to have formed to go forward more boldly than before. His Highness extended to them special representation in Kolhapur Municipality, which was now reconstituted on communal basis and a young man of chamar (Shoe-makers) caste became the Chairman of the Board.

Till the year 1885 the leather industry was located near Bindu Chouk and in the year 1885, a jail was built up near Bindu Chouk by His Highness Shri Shahu Chhatrapati Maharaj and due to the jail the leather industry was shifted

to Raviwar Peth.

In Graham's Report (1854) shoemakers or chambhars were, like tanners, included in the class of "Artificers, or manual labourers" and their total strength in the city was given as 100. They made shoes and other footwear. The total average cost of the tools of their trade was put at Rs. 2-8-0.

In Prof. Modak's report on the survey of 1892, tanning was described as one of the leading industries in the Karvir Peta and was reported as being concentrated mainly in the town of Kolhapur. Reference was also made in the report to the enterprise of a "Bombay Mahomedan", who had "Lately started a large tannery in the town of Kolhapur," and was thus "instrumental in stopping the exportation of hides of which the tanners and chambhars complained." Prof. Modak also mentioned the footwear manufacturing industries as the leading industries in Kolhapur Town and Karvir Peta. A number of chambhars, noted by the survey, besides making "shoes, chappals, matas and pakhals also made, " good reins, gram bags and even tough harnesses, etc.<sup>2</sup>

As the residential area went on increasing around the leather industry of Raviwar Peth, His Highness felt

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2. N.V. Sovani, Social Survey of Kolhapur City, Volume II Industry, Trade and Labour, (1951) PP 106, 110

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that the nearby residents may not be able to tolerate this obnoxious industry, as they would get troubles from the air and water pollution problems of this industry. He, therefore, prepared the scheme of allotment of the open plots to all tanners belonging to Raviwar Peth area at free of cost for the escape of the residents of this area from these problems and for the expansion of Kolhapur leather industry as well. But actually, the implementation of the scheme of allotment of open plots started in the years 1925 and 1926, i.e. under the rule of His Highness Shri Rajaram Maharaj. Prime Minister Shri Annasaheb Lathhe took away industrial colony of Raviwar Peth with force without giving any kind of compensation to all the tanners. And allotted 80' X 160' open plots to 50 tanners, free<sup>of</sup> charge, at a place far away from the city called Yallama Mal (Now it is called as Jawahar Nagar). And, thus, this industry was, actually again shifted in the year 1927. All the tanners established their industrial units at their own cost. Due to this decision and shifting, the leather industry in Kolhapur city was able to survive and grow, though only in a small way.

In Balkrishna's survey of 1926, the total number of leather-tanning establishments was given as 29, They were described as " hereditary concerns working on a small

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scale," all 29 establishments were owned by Dhors. According to his survey of shoe-making units, the total number of shoe makers' shops in the city, excluding those who did the work at home, was 25. They "supplied all the requirements of the local market," while some of them were reported to be engaged in making leather cases, hand bags, purses, etc. Of the 25 establishments 17 had been started during 1921-26, 4 during 1910-20, while the remaining four were described as hereditary. All the establishments were owned by chambhars and they engaged a total of 40 'employees.'<sup>3</sup>

The following Tables furnish the information regarding the actual position of the leather and footwear industries in Kolhapur city in 1926.

TABLE-I

Tanneries and wholesale and Retail shops of footwear in Kolhapur city in 1926.<sup>4</sup>

Sr. No.	Name.	Retail only.	Whole-sale only.	Both Retail & whole sale.	Total Units.	Employees.
1)	Tanneries	0	0	29	29	18
2)	Shoe-Maker's	24	0	1	25	40

3) N.V.Sovani, Social Survey of Kolhapur City, Volume II, Industry Trade and Labour (1951) PP 106, 107.

4) N.V.Sovani, Social Survey of Kolhapur City, Volume II, Industry, Trade and Labour, (1951) P.48

TABLE-II

Classification of Leather Work and Leather  
Curing Industrial Establishments by wards and  
by groups of workers engaged in them.<sup>5</sup>

Wards.	Leather Work.	Leather Curing.
A	2	-
B	2	26
C	54	-
D	-	-
E	3	-
	61	26
<b>Total Groups of Workers.</b>		
1	22	8
2-3	25	15
4-6	09	1
7-10	02	2
Above 10	3	-
<b>Total No.of Workers engaged.</b>	285	67

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5) Ibid, P. 25

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During the World War I, all the tanners and leather workers earned a windfall profit. In those days the industry was prosperous because, the World War I had created a gigantic demand for leather goods. The artisans and industrialists could, therefore, maintain a cash balance to a great extent. Thus their economic condition was improved. This money was utilised by them in establishing the industry at Yallema Mal in 1927.

#### TANNERS :

In Major Graham's Report the total number of tanners was put at 40. The total capital or equipment employed by an average tanner was recorded by Graham as follows.

TABLE III

	<u>Total Stock.</u>	<u>Value Rs.</u> <u>Rs. A. Ps.</u>
1.	Rapee, an instrument to smooth the skin.	0-4-0
2.	Shimp, a shell-like instrument for shaving hair off the skin.	0-2-0
1.	Rapee, an instrument for cleaning leathers after they are dyed.	0-3-0
1.	Piece of plank to smooth leather on.	0-8-0
2.	iron spikes to sew water bags of leather by.	0-1-0
1.	Hone for whetting the instruments.	0-1-0 <sup>6</sup>
	TOTAL ..Rs.	<u>1-3-0</u>

6) N.V.Sovani, Social Survey of Kolhapur City, Volume II Industry, Trade and Labour, (1951) p.110

II) POST INDEPENDENCE PERIOD :LEATHER WORKING :

After the Independence, Shri.R.A.Sonwane was the first industrialist who started Chromium Tanning process in Kolhapur Leather Industry. He did the Leather Diploma in Bombay in those days. In the year 1948 Shri Sonwane started Goat Skin Tanning. But unfortunately, he failed in skin-tanning occupation and consequently he had to suffer heavy losses. And in the same year a depression took place in the International market of leather. The Kolhapur Leather Industry got into the clutches of the waves of depression accordingly. Nearly all the industrialists had to face a vigorous blow of the depression. In the year 1952 Shri. Sonwane took an initiative in forming a society under the name of Kakkaya Samaj Co-Operative Cham Utpadak Society, Kolhapur in Jawahar Nagar area. This society purchases Myrobalan (Hirda-fruits) and other required materials for leather industry of Kolhapur city from the Government at reasonable prices and supplies the same to the members.

Pair of scrapers (rapl), iron spike (airana), ari, hasti, anvil, hammers, (hatodi) and wooden blocks (sachas)



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etc. are the tools used in leather working. An average footwear shop contained a set of tools worth Rs.125, while an ordinary independent artisan had to invest Rs.10 to Rs.15 in tools. In addition to this, a leather sewing machine is also required which cost about Rs.150 to Rs.200. All artisans could not afford to purchase a machine.

Footwears of different kinds like chappals, sandals or paitana, slippers, jode or shoes both English and Indian type, were mainly produced. Some artisans also manufactured leather articles like money purses and suit-cases on a small scale. One artisan was able to produce five pairs of chappals a day and sold them at about Rs.20.

The following table shows the Cost of Production of four pairs of special type of chappals in 1956 ;

TABLE IV

Particulars.	Rs. Ana. Ps.
Upper leather with lining 2 Sq. feet at 1/4 per Sq. foot.	2-8-0
Sole leather 4 Lbs. at Rs. 1-8-0 per Lb.	6-0-0
Labour Charges at Re 1 per pair.	4-0-0
Nails, thread etc.	0-8-0
Total Cost.	13-0-0
Net Profit.	3-0-0 <sup>7</sup>
Selling Price.	16-0-0

7) Gazetteer of India, Maharashtra State, Kolhapur District, (Revised Edition) (Edition 1960), P. 376

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According to Shri.N.V.Sovani's (Gokhale Ind Institute of Politics and Economics,Poona) censuses of establishments there were 61 concerns of makers of leatherwear in the city and a total of 285 persons were engaged in them in 1947. Of these 54 were in 'C' Ward 3 in E and 2 each in A and B wards. Twenty-two establishments were one-man concerns, 25 had each 2 to 3 persons engaged in them, 9 engaged 4 to 6 persons each, 2 had each 7 to 10 persons, whole in each of the remaining 3 concerns over 10 persons were engaged. His sample comprised 12 establishments, 11 from C Ward and one from 'A' ward. All of them were owned by chambhars. Though a large proportion of the concerns in the sample had been started after 1939, while others were hereditary, the owners of these concerns had inherited the profession and had been in the business almost from their birth. Very few establishments in this group could be regarded as family concerns. The bulk of them engaged external help which was paid on piece rate basis. Time wages were uncommon. Of the 12 establishments included in his sample 8 engaged outside help. Two of the remaining 4 concerns were managed by the owner with the help of a family member while the other two were managed by the owners alone.

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the machine included the cost of equipment amounted to between Rs.70 and Rs.100 in those concerns which used second-hand machines, while with a new machine the total cost amounted to between Rs.130 and Rs.200.

Tanned leather for soles and dyed and fancy leather for uppers, belts and straps, etc. comprised the important raw material used in these concerns. They also required tacks, nails, twine, etc. Fine quality leather was imported directly from Bombay or Madras, or was purchased from the local wholesalers who brought it from there. It was used mainly for uppers in shoes, etc. Heavy leather was purchased from the local tanners. Tacks, nails etc. were purchased both locally and from outside. In the 12 concerns in the sample a total of 54 persons were engaged of these 20 were owners, 1 clerk, 28 skilled workers, 4 boys and one apprentice. With the exception of the clerk, who was a Maratha all the others were Chambhars. The owners usually acted as managers and 6 of them were also skilled workers. The largest concerns in the sample employed the clerk on a monthly salary of Rs.50. Skilled workers were paid on piece rate basis, the rates of payment varying according to the nature and amount of work performed. For a pair of ordinary sandals the rate varied between ten annas and fourteen annas for a pair of special (Kolhapur) sandals it varied

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between Rs. 2 and Rs. 2-8-0 for pair of fancy sandals it was usually Rs. 1-8-0, while it varied between Rs. 4 and Rs. 5 for a pair of shoes. For a pair of sandals of smaller size for children the rate varied between six annas and eight annas. Most of the skilled workers were adult males but in one concern the proprietor was assisted by his mother who was described as a skilled worker. Of the 4 boys two were employed in the biggest concern in the sample and were paid at the rate of 8 annas per day. The other two boys were relatives of owners and were not paid. In the case of the single apprentice a monthly salary of Rs. 22 was paid. The hours of work were on an average 10 per day.

A pair of ordinary chappals was sold at between Rs. 3 and Rs. 3-8-0, the price of that of special Kolhapur type chappal and sandal varied between Rs. 4 and Rs. 5 and Rs. 7 to 8 respectively while a pair of shoes costed anything between Rs. 8 and Rs. 15, depending upon its size and the quality of leather used. The products of these establishments commanded a large market in the city itself. A few shops, however exported a part of their production to Poona and Bombay through their agents.

The initial investment in six establishments in the sample was worth between Rs. 140 and Rs. 225 each, in 2 between

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Rs. 275 and Rs. 525 each, while in another two concerns the capital invested was valued at between Rs. 700 and Rs. 1,050. In the remaining two establishments it amounted to Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 2,500 respectively. Three concerns in the sample were found to have borrowed between Rs. 900 and Rs. 1,500 each at the rate of between 7 and 13 per cent per year. The amount borrowed by one other establishment was given as Rs. 5,000 at 7.1/2 per cent per year, while in another it amounted to Rs. 500 at 9 per cent per year.<sup>8</sup>

In Kolhapur, labour from outside was employed in leather establishments and no female labour was employed in footwear shops. Artisans were paid Re 1 for producing a pair of chappals in Kolhapur. In those days, an artisan required about Rs. 500 as an investment to start with this occupation. These artisans were very poor and were always in debt. They obtained capital required for investment from local savakars (money-lenders) at high rates of interest.

There were 8 leather workers' cooperative societies at the end of June 1957. The number of members of these societies including four tanners' societies was 169. They had Rs. 6,025 as share capital, Rs. 224 as Reserve fund. In 1955-56 two societies consumed raw materials required in

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8) N.V.Sovani, Social Survey of Kolhapur City, Volume II Industry, Trade and Labour, (1951), PP. 107, 108, 109.

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tanning and leather working to the extent of Rs. 37,550 and produced goods worth of Rs. 27,896. The total turnover of these societies was less in relation to the amount invested in raw material because many members sold their products directly in the market and not through the societies.<sup>9</sup>

Rainy season was the slack season. Production and sales mounted up during winter and summer.

According to Shri. N. V. Sovani's census of establishments there were in all 26 tanners' establishments in Kolhapur and a total of 67 persons were engaged in them. These establishments comprised a small colony situated on the outskirts of the city in 'B' ward. His sample consisted of 6 establishments employing 20 persons in all. All of them were Kakkayyas or Dhors whose traditional business was that of tanning. Most of them were small family concerns. External help was engaged usually in the case of those concerns which mainly exported their products to Bombay and which were operated on a rather bigger scale. The premises were owned by the tanners for over three generations. The average establishment consisted of the outer part of the dwelling which was used as workshop where the business of scraping and smoothing the skins and

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9) Gazetteer of India, Maharashtra State, Kolhapur District, (Revised Edition) (1960), P. 376

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hides was carried out, and an open space of about 3,000 to 4,000. Sq. Feet where raw hides were processed and dried. The equipment in these shops consisted of a pair each of shimpis, rapees, aris, a scythe, an ubaran, an axe and a few tubs or barrels. The minimum cost of a set of such equipment was put at between Rs. 35 and Rs. 45.

Raw hides and skins of buffaloes, oxen, cows, goats, etc. were usually purchased from the Mahars, Mangs and butchers in the city and were, in a few cases, imported from Bombay and Belgaum. In the local market raw hides were purchased at Rs. 12 per piece, while those imported from Bombay and Belgaum (probably of a superior quality) cost Rs. 25 a piece. The other raw materials required were Babulbark which was purchased at between Rs. 6 and Rs. 7 per pound, myrobalans at between annas six and annas eight per "paili" (four seers) and lime at between annas four and annas five per "paili" (4 seers). Three out of the six establishments included in Govani's sample each purchased between 100 and 300 pieces of hides and skins per year, 2 between 350 and 450 pieces each, while the remaining concern imported from Bombay over 2,000 pieces per year.

Raw hides were processed into heavy leather over a period of 30 to 35 days. Pieces imported from Bombay were

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mostly sent there again after processing and sold at Rs. 35 to Rs. 40 a piece, while those purchased in the local market were sold locally at Rs. 15 to Rs. 30 per piece. The importing tanners had to bear the freightage amounting (both ways) to Rs. 5 per hide. Two concerns in the sample exported 90 percent of their production to Bombay others sold almost the whole of it locally.

The minimum initial investment in these establishments varied between Rs. 150 and Rs. 250 and soared up to anything like Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500 on the higher side. Two of the six establishments in Sovani's sample were found to have borrowed Rs. 200 and Rs. 300 respectively at the rate of Rs. 9 and Rs. 12 percent per year. In one establishment an amount of Rs. 7,000 was borrowed at the rate of Rs. 6.1/4 percent per year. All the establishments paid a uniform municipal tax of Rs. 6 per year. Only in two concerns was external help was employed. It consisted of 8 workers of whom three were females. In the other all the family members worked in the concern. The remuneration of external workers was on a piece rate basis. For processing 20 hides they were usually paid Rs. 25 each. Which practically constituted their entire monthly earnings.

Sovani reports further in his survey that these establishments required a large quantity of water for



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macerating hides, etc. and it was supplied to them from neighbouring abandoned stone quarry where water accumulated during the rains, in bullockcarts owned by the Municipality, at the rate of 10 to 12 annas per tank.<sup>10</sup>

Two or three lime pits (chunad), tanning pits, washing tanks (nivalan) and tools like wooden mallets (tipas) rapees (rapa) aris (ari) a scythe, ubaran, an axe and a few tubs and barrels are the main tools used in this industry. The minimum cost of a set of such equipments was put about Rs.250. The cost of construction of these pits was about Rs.600 to Rs.700 in 1956.

#### PRODUCTION :

A family of four members tanned an average 15 hides and kept for 15 days under the process of tanning in a month. It, therefore, realised a gross income of about Rs.650.

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10) N.V.Sovani, Social Survey of Kolhapur City, Volume II, Industry, Trade and Labour, (1951), PP. 110, 111, 112

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TABLE - V

Cost of Tanning 15 hides in 1956.

Particulars.	Rs. Anas. Ps.
Cost of hides (15 pieces)	360-0-00
Cost of lime.	3-12-0
Cost of Watering.	15- 0-0
Myrobalan (Hirda)	30- 0-0
Babul Bark.	105- 0-0
Wages per month at Rs. 2 per piece.	30- 0-0
Wages per Woman per day at Rs. 1.	15- 0-0
Total .. Rs.	558-12-0

The average net monthly income of tanner's family thus came to less than Rs.40.

MARKETING :

Tanned hides which are used as sole leather were generally sent to Bombay and Poona from where there existed a large demand for them. They were also sold in the local markets. Many a time these tanners were compelled to

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under sell their products, because they could not afford to wait till the market prices were favourable to them.

EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR :

Tanning provides full-time employment. Tanners work from morning till evening. Rainy season is a slack season of this industry especially for the bag tanning. Generally, no outside labour was employed in it. They had been working with the help of their families. But at Kolhapur and Vadgaon where this industry was organised on a large-scale, many artisans were employed on daily wages in the tanning concerns and they were paid Rs.2 per tanned piece of hide. An average earning of a tanner's family working in a village was about Rs.75 to Rs.100 per month.

F I N A N C E :

The minimum investment required in this industry was about Rs.100 for tools and equipments and Rs.750 ~~for~~ to ~~work~~ Rs.1,000 as working capital. Tanners used to borrow this amount at high rates of interest from local savakars' (money-lenders).

COOPERATIVES :

The peripatetic tanning school was shifted to this district in September 1950. Till June 1954 it had completed three sessions - two at Kolhapur proper and one at Vadgaon. More than 20 hereditary and non-hereditary artisans and some casual students were trained in chrome-tanning, glue manufacture and other tanning processes like pit as well as bag methods.

There were four tanners cooperative societies at the end of June 1956. The number of members of these societies including eight leather workers societies was 286. These societies consumed raw materials required in tanning and leather working to the extent of Rs. 37,500 and produced goods worth Rs. 27,896. The total turnover of these societies was less in relation to the amount invested in raw material because many members sold their products directly in the market and not through the societies.

During 1947, the heads of 15 to 20 families were working as clerks or teachers in Government Offices and Schools. Some were in the Local police force and some had been recruited in the army during World War II. The community was generally very poor, educationally backward and its literacy was very low. <sup>11</sup>

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11) Gazetter of India, Maharashtra State, Kolhapur District, (Revised Edition) (1960), PP. 376, 377, 378.

During the year 1954, the leather industry of Kolhapur suffered heavy losses. From the year 1954 to 1970 the leather and footwear industries could not recover themselves. These industries were running in losses because of non-availability of infrastructural facilities. As prices of leather rose in sympathy with the hide prices in 1972 and 1973, shoemakers initially switched out of leather into synthetics. A 15 percent substitution took place in footwear uppers but public rejection forced shoe manufacturers back into leather.

LIDCOM :

On 1st May 1974, Leather Industrial Development Corporation Of Maharashtra opened its branch in Subhash Nagar, Kolhapur to develop the leather industries in Kolhapur District. LIDCOM has so many attractive schemes for the development of leather industries. But, in fact, the authority of the LIDCOM, branch Kolhapur does not know how to develop this industry. LIDCOM has opened a production centre to produce Kolhapuri, and other types of chappals. It has created a full production capacity to employ 50 employees in production centre. Recently, it has also opened a selling centre at Khari Corner, near S.M.Lohia High School in Kolhapur.

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ADDED VALUE :

According to an UNCTAD report in 1974, the value which could be added for the conversion of raw hides and skins into finished leather and leather products is mentioned below :-

TABLE VI

	Hides. (Percent)	Skins. (Percent)
Raw	100	100
Wet-blue	122	153
Finished Leather	236	296
Footwear/Leather Goods	600	600

How far were the above added value figures applicable to our leather industry as a whole was checked by some exercises made by CLRI and their findings in the case of raw to finished leathers are :-

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TABLE VII

	Hides. (Percent)	Skins. (Percent)
Raw.	100	100
Wet-blue.	159	150
Finished Leather.	252	237

According to UNCTAD estimates chemicals ~~are~~ represent 15 to 17 percent, and labour content 12 to 13 percent in the total cost of production. But in the CLRI study, chemicals represent about 35 percent and labour content 12 percent. In certain cases it was reported that Indian Chemicals were costlier than imported ones. Unless we reduce the cost of chemicals, it is impossible to bring down the cost of finished leather.

How far we have been able to attain the added value according to the above established formula and why we have failed remains to be examined carefully and remedial measures for this gap should be found.<sup>12</sup>

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12) The Tanner (Journal November 1981), P.210

REMUNERATION :

From many ~~ERE~~ corners of the world, demand for Kolhapuri Chappal is gig<sup>n</sup>atic. Here, in Kolhapur Artisans manufacture footwears in their small cottages with the help of primitive tools and equipments. Till 1976, the economic conditions of labour in this industry was dismal. In Kolhapur daily wages Rs. 3/- were paid to each worker. Economic conditions of small units were much weaker. In the year 1982, the industrialists agreed upon the necessity of increase in the wages of workers for the development of the industry. One industrialist suggested that the daily wages Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 to skilled worker, Rs. 6 to Rs. 7 to semiskilled worker and Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 to unskilled worker should be paid.

Khair Committee divided Maharashtra State in four Zones after taking the policies of owners of industries and that of representatives of workers into consideration. Khair Committee, therefore, recommended the following wages for the workers per month.

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TABLE VIII

Type of Employee.	Remuneration.
A Skilled Worker.	Rs. 143 to Rs. 221 p.m.
A Semiskilled Worker.	Rs. 123.50 to Rs. 201.50 p.m.
An unskilled Worker.	Rs. 104 to Rs. 182 p.m.
A Supervising Worker.	Rs. 150 to Rs. 250 p.m.
A Clerk.	Rs. 140 to Rs. 220 p.m.
A Subordinate.	Rs. 125 to Rs. 200 p.m.

It has also been recommended that the daily wages should be fixed at, by dividing the monthly wages by 26 days. Besides, the consumer index should be made definite and that should be reconciled with the wage index. And paise 50 to Rs. 1.50 should be granted as an extra allowance per two points of increase in index as well, suggested by the Khaire Committee.

However, recommendations of Khaire Committee could not give a full justice to the persons engaged in these industries.

Then another Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Shri. Ram Janakidas Pandagale, a member of the legislature. This Committee has discussed 165 problems of these industries and recommended an attractive increase

in wages.

Kolhapur is known as Zone No.2. Leather industry of Kolhapur will not develop without encouragement of the Government. In the tanning industries of Kolhapur, the skilled worker gets Rs. 10 to Rs. 30 to Rs. 35 as remuneration per day. However, the workers work on the piece-rate wage basis and clock-hour basis. The industry has to face the drawbacks of both the methods of work. Piece rate work system is profitable to the owners as a worker does maximum work in shorter period, and gets much remuneration. It has been experienced in many industries that the workers get the remuneration and do not go to work for some days. They spend the amount of wages foolishly in mirth, dalliance and drinking liquors. It affects the production of industry adversely. It is the drawback of piece rate work method. The clock-hour system also does not escape from the danger, that is, a worker tends to work very slowly as there is no restriction or binding upon him to finish the required amount of work in a specific period. Wages rates are low in Kolhapur city in comparison with the wage rates being paid in other states. It will be definitely understood as per the data of the year 1974 to 1978.

Till 1977-78, vegetable tanning was the process used to treat leather in Kolhapur leather industry with the increased demand for finished leather goods in the export

market, it has become vital for manufacturers to switch entirely to chemical tanning, a faster and superior process, which enhances our leather export earnings enormously.

Till the year 1979-80 Kolhapur leather industry had been exporting wet blue leather i.e. semi-finished leather to foreign countries and importing the finished leather for manufacturing the footwears and other goods. In the year 1978-79 Vatkar and Brothers installed imported modern sophisticated machineries in their factory by investing Rs. 1.50 crores to produce chrome leather in Jawahar Nagar. It is the only one to produce leather to international standards. They have started exporting chrome leather from the year 1980-81 to Canada and Germany. The following table furnishes the details of their export of chrome leather yearwise figures are in lakhs.

TABLE IX

Year.	Export. (Approximately in lakhs) Rs.
1980-81	5.00
1981-82	27.00
1982-83	5.00
1983-84	1.50

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Now-a-days, Kolhapur leather and footwear industries have a great potentiality. But some major hindrances are occurring in the way of developing work of these industries in Kolhapur, those are water pollution and expansion or shifting problems of these industries. In the period of Shri.Dwarakanath Kapoor (Ex) Administrator, Kolhapur Municipal Corporation, keen attention was paid to the upliftment of these industries. And he suggested all the tanners to build a compound wall around the industries. In the year 1977, Kolhapur Municipal Corporation suggested 200 acres of Land at Rukadi-Mal for shifting of these industries. Kolhapur Municipal Corporation was ready to avail this Rukadi-Mal for all the tanners free of cost. Shri.Subramanyam, (Ex) Commissioner of Industries, Maharashtra State also agreed upon this scheme.

It is seen that, all tanners are reluctant to shift their industries to a other place as they have now settled in Jawahar Nagar very strongly. As a matter of fact, if it is decided by the Government of Maharashtra to shift this industry from Jawahar Nagar, Government will have to bear expenses of Rs.10 Crores against shifting. Instead of shifting the industries, all tanners insist upon the extension of the industries for the further development of the industries. In order to make expansion of the industry, they have demanded 45 to 50 acres of land in front of

Yallama Temple. Today, a very serious problem of this industry is that of water pollution. For the prevention of water pollution, a scheme is proposed by the Kakkaya Samaj Co-Operative Cham Utpadak Society, Kolhapur i.e. a mini plant should be installed for prevention of water pollution. It will cost about Rs.6 lakhs for proper filtration and neutralisation of tannery water. In order to implement the scheme Government of Maharashtra should bear 50 percent of total expenditure and 25 percent should be borne by Kolhapur Municipal Corporation and rest 25 percent should be recovered from all tanners in equal instalments in the period of twenty years, as if loans are granted to tanners. In regard to implementation of this scheme in the Government of Barrister A.R.Anthule, Chief Minister Barrister Anthule, Shri.Budhiwant Chairman of Maharashtra State Prevention of Water Pollution Board and Shri.R.A.Sonwane had held discussion on this scheme and according to Shri.R.A.Sonwane this scheme is under consideration of Government of Maharashtra.

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