

CHAPTER-3

TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN ICHALKARANJI

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TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN ICHALKARANJI

3.1. LOCATION OF ICHALKARANJI :

Ichalkaranji is located in Hatkangale Taluka of Kolhapur District. Kolhapur District has a place of pride in Western Maharashtra. Ichalkaranji is situated on the banks of the river Panchaganga. It is a municipality place and its present population is around three lakhs. Due to the rapid advance made by the city in Textile sector, it is popularly known as the " Manchester of Maharashtra."

Earlier Ichalkaranji was a small princely state and it was the 'Jahagir ' of Ghopade dynasty. Late His-Highness Shrimant Narayanrao Ghorpade had a lion's share in the existing state of the city.

Ichalkaranji is known for its textile Industry. It is a textile centre where decentralised textile industry is flourishing. Ichalkaranji's Textile Industry consists of spinning Mills, Sizing Units, Powerlooms & process houses. Moreover the essence of Ichalkaranji is the weaving activity.

3.2 HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT OF TEXTILE ACTIVITY IN ICHALKARANJI :

In 1904, Late Mr. Viththalrao Datar, an young entrepreneur established the first powerloom in Ichalkaranji.¹ This was the beginning of the development and it was inaugurated by Late His-Higness Shrimant Narayanrao Babasaheb

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Ghorapade : As the event was unique in that period, the king also provided royal patronage to the industry by assistance in the field of finance as well as free land and other amenities to the weaver community.

As the king had observed the progress made by the co-operation movement in Denmark and other western countries which he had visited earlier, was surprised and hence he determined to exercise the movement for the benefit of the people. During the II World War, the handloom industry also took a root and flourished in Ichalkaranji.

The establishment of the Ichalkaranji Central Co-op. Bank, the Urban Co-op. Credit Society in Ichalkaranji and number of other credit societies elsewhere in the state by His-Highness reflects his fore-vision. Even common men can stand on their own through co-operation. The traditional weavers were given financial help in order to enable them to run the powerlooms. The intention of King was to lead his state to prosperity. The growth of the powerloom industry in Ichalkaranji during 1950 to 1993 can be analysed as below.

TABLE NO.3.1.

Table Showing the Growth of Powerloom Industry in Ichalkaranji.

Years	No.of Powerlooms	Population
1950	2,000	27,754
1960	8,000	50,954
1970	15,000	87,727
1980	30,000	1,50,000
1993	12468	3,00,000

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91. - ~~2,14,835~~ 300,000

Sources :-

- 1) Status report on powerloom industry of Ichalkaranji, 1980 published by Yeshwant Co-operative Processors Ltd., Ichalkaranji.
- 2) Ichalkaranji At a Glance Published by Ichalkaranji Municipality in June 1993.

As shown in the above table the number of powerlooms is increasing in Ichalkaranji surprisingly. In the pre-independence period, the powerloom industry was slowly progressing but after independence it boosted & has made marked progress.

The above table shows that there has been steep rise in both the population & the number of powerlooms.

The population has increased about 11 times while the number of looms has increased 50 times. Particularly the increase has been quite surprising during the 80's.

An important characteristic of the powerloom industry in Ichalkaranji is that more than 80% powerlooms are owned by the people who have looms upto 4. Secondly the large number of looms are owned by people from other communities, where traditional weavers had majority earlier.

3.3 THE NATURE OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN ICHALKARANJI :

Ichalkaranji is a centre of decentralised powerloom industry. All these powerlooms invariably work, round the clock and manufacture cotton fabrics only. Dhotis Mulls, cambric are some of the common popular varieties in addition to the traditionally produced printed sarees. These varieties are produced out of the count group of 44^s to 80^s of the cotton yarn. Other varieties of cloth are also produced out of the other count groups, but their proportion to total production is less than 25%. Every loom produces on an average, 60 meters of cloth per day.

Supposing that looms work for 300 days a year, 180 crore meters cloth is produced annually by the industry.

The total number of powerlooms as on 31.3.1992 in India is 11,55,336 & that in Maharashtra is 4,44,046.*

These figures compared to Ichalkaranji's total number of looms show that Ichalkaranji has a place of pride in the powerloom sector at State & Central levels also.

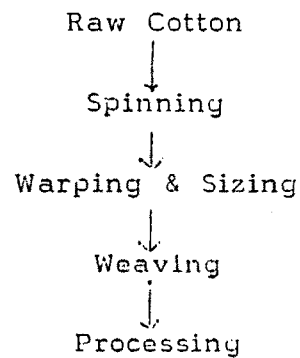
3.4 CLOTH MANUFACTURING PROCESS IN THE DECENTRALISED WEAVING SECTOR

In the organised composite Mill sector, all the processes are carried out in the same mills, i.e. from raw cotton, finished cloth is manufactured. But in the decentralised weaving sector, there is a separation in the processing

* Spinners Year Book 1992

activity. For each process a different industrial unit is there. The processing activity in decentralised powerloom sector can be shown as under :-

Chart showing the process of production in the decentralised weaving sector



SPINNING :

Thus spinning activity is the very beginning of cloth manufacturing. In the spinning industry cotton yarn is produced from raw cotton. Such cotton yarn is generally of various count groups; it depends upon the demands by the powerloom industry. The term 'Count' in relation to spinning mills denotes the fineness & superiority of the yarn produced. In spinning Mills the yarn produced is winded along the cones.

WARPING & SIZING :

In warping process the yarn received from spinning Mills is got winded to the beams. Then the yarn is passed through the mixture of gum, starch and mutton tallow.

Then the beams are provided steam to make the yarn sticky. In the process of sizing the yarn of warp quality is processed & passed for weaving activity. At present there are 150 Warping & Sizing units.¹

WEAVING :

In the process of weaving warped beams are woven with the weft yarn which is used without sizing it.

PROCESSING :

After Weaving the cloth on looms the same has to be got processed. In this process, the cloth is got calendered, bleached, dyed, mercerised & Chemically processed. This is final finishing process. At present there are 19 processing units in the city.²

3.5 PEDHIWALAS & KHARCHIWALAS :

The powerloom industry in Ichalkaranji has a special peculiarity. There are two classes. A) Master Weavers called Pedhiwalas ; & B) Powerloom owners called Kharchiwalas. The Master weavers are capitalists & they have got the control over the almost industry. They exploit the powerloom owners to a great extent.

The master weaver provides the sized beams & weft yarn to the powerloom owners who weave the cloth on looms. It is given back to the master weaver. Weaving charges

1. Ichalkaranji At a Glance - pp.9

2. Ichalkaranji At a Glance PP. 8

given by the Pedhiwalas are gross income of the Kharchiwalas.

The amount received by powerloom owner is spent upto 50% on wages to workers. The remaining 50% is spent for payment of electricity bill, Mill stores & the maintenance. At last he is left with very few income. Among the powerloom owners almost 85% are Kharchiwalas.

Another significant & noteworthy fact is that there is a reservation of production of items for handloom industry.

As a result of this limitation, the powerloom industry cannot enter into the production of these items. The handloom industry enjoys a lot of freedom as well as protection from competition with the powerloom industry. On the contrary the powerloom industry has to face severe competition with composite mill sector.

3.6 BEGINNING OF SPINNING MILLS IN ICHALKARANJI :

Though powerloom industry in Ichalkaranji has rooted long ago, the powerloom industry in Ichalkaranji has flourished rapidly since 1930. To satisfy the increasing demand for yarn, the need for starting of spinning mills was felt. After independence attempts have been made in this regard to satisfy the increasing demand for yarn.

As a result first spinning mill in the region was set up in the Co-operative sector. This was the establishment of The Deccan Co-op. Spinning Mills Ltd., in 1960. At present there are 7 Spinning Mills and all are registered as Co-operative societies. These Mills are as under -

1. The Deccan Co-Op Spinning Mills Ltd.,
2. Kolhapur Zilla Shetakari Vinakari Sah. Soot Girni Ltd.
3. The Ichalkaranji Co-op. Spinning Mills Ltd.,
4. Nav-Maharashtra Sah. Soot Girni Ltd.,
5. Datta Sahakari Soot Girni Ltd.
6. Janata Sahakari Soot Girni Ltd.
7. Ganesh Co-op. Spinning Mills Ltd.

In addition to the above working Mills, following are some of the proposed Spinning Mills -

1. Venketesh Sahakari Soot-Girni Ltd.
2. Indira Gandhi Mahila Sah. Soot Girni Ltd.
3. Choundeshwari Sah. Soot Girni Ltd.

As the powerloom industry is expanding rapidly, the number of spinning Mills is also increasing. The Deccan Co-op. Spinning Mills Ltd. was registered on 3rd December, 1960 & commenced production on 18th December, 1962. This mill has been the first co-op. Spinning Mill in the state of Maharashtra. Establishment of Kolhapur Zilla Shetakari Vinakari Sah. Soot Girni Ltd. followed this when it was registered on 17th Aug. 1964 & went into production on 6th July, 1968. Further ahead, on 18th June 1974, The Ichalkaranji Co-op. Spinning Mills was registered & it commenced actual production on 9th Sept. 1977. Afterwards the other spinning co-operatives were established viz. Nav-Maharashtra, Datta, Janata & Ganesh.

Among others, The Deccan and the Ichalkaranji Co.op Spinning Mills Ltd., (ICOSPIN) have established their reputation in the yarn market. They have also achieved several awards in the fields of quality, productivity, performance etc.

The inception of All India Federation of Co-op. Spinning Mills Ltd. took place at Deccan Co-op. Spinning Mills Ltd. The Federation has proved as a Godfather to Co-operative Spinning Mills in India. It is functioning for the betterment of the Co-operative Spinning Industry in India. It is rendering many services to its members, which are considered in Chapter-II of the study.

Nav Maharashtra Sah. Soot Girni Ltd. which was established in 1979 commenced production in 1986. This is a 100% Export Oriented Unit (E.O.U.). It is well equipped with foreign high tech machinery.

3.7 INDUSTRIAL SCOPE OF THE CITY :

A) SIZING & WARPING :

Sizing & Warping industry plays an important role in the smooth running of the powerloom industries. It is a preparatory process in weaving activity. The growth of powerloom sector has caused the growth of Sizing & Warping units in Ichalkaranji. Today there are 150 Sizing units with a capacity to size 130 tonnes of yarn.¹ It has involved

1. Ichalkaranji at A Glance P.P. 9

a capital investment of Rs. 22 crores and employment of 4000 workers.

B) PROCESSING HOUSES :

Though the number of powerlooms grew in late fifties, the weavers had to rely on the whim of mills in the oriented sector for processing of the grey cloth.

To overcome this The Laxmi Co-op. Processors Ltd. was established in 1957, as the first Co-operative processing unit. Though on small scale, the process inspired confidence in the minds of weavers and ensured better processing on co-operative basis.

To meet the growing need for processing one more processing house was founded in 1963, viz. The Yeshwant Co-operative Processors Ltd. This process was founded in 1963 & it is now considered as one of the best managed and well equipped process house. It is having machinery of ultra modern technical systems. Today we see this process standing on firm footing with glorious achievements on its part.

In the wake of recent developments in the powerloom industry particularly the production of non-cotton or synthetic cloth on powerloom such as polyester, tericot etc. the necessity of synthetic processing and printing was felt. Again Yeshwant processors stood first in providing the facilities.

The Yeshwant Processors has also taken lead in

founding the Western Maharashtra Processors Association in its premises.

The project cost of a processing house being low, many private processing houses are emerging in the last decade. At present there are 19 processing houses, of which 12 are having the facility of Synthetic processing & 3 another units are proposed. The existing processing industry processes the processing capacity of about 15 lakh meters of cloth per day and have created employment of about 4000 workers¹.

C) INDUSTRIAL ESTATES :

Substantial growth of powerloom industry alongwith ancilliary & subsidiary industries made the town over crowded, unhealthy & deformed. The facilities regarding clean surrounding at work became necessary. The powerloom industry is spread all over the city in such a manner that the residential houses adjoining powerloom shades have covered an area of 50% in Ichalkaranji. It causes pollution as well as invitation to various diseases.

All these aspects necessiated the establishment of industrial estates. As a result, The Ichalkaranji Industrial Co-operative Estate was founded to provide well planned spacious area, for powerlooms with strong permanent constructions. This Co-operative Estate undertook the construction of buildings for small powerloom weavers.

1) Ichalkaranji At A Glance PP 10.

This estate has helped in shaping the city with regard to its planning, as most of the industrial units were shifted to these new shades.

Another Industrial Estate was established viz. Parvati Co-op. Industrial Estate in the north east of the city. A number of other industries including powerlooms have been clustering in this new estate.

As there has been ever increase in the powerloom industry, yet another industrial estate " Laxmi Audhyogik Sahakari Vasahat " has been established in the north of the city.

Still, to cope up with the expansion of industrial activities in the city there is need of further more industrial estates .

D) POWERLOOM WEAVER'S ASSOCIATION :

With a view to procure and supply the raw material and to extend expertise to its members, The Ichalkaranji Powerloom Weavers Association was established in the year 1948. The Association provides a strong platform for the powerloom industry in Ichalkaranji and has dedicated itself for the cause of its development. It voiced the problems faced by the samll powerloom weavers^{and} pleaded the industry not only to continue its existance but also to develop it at greater pace. during the accute scarcity, the Association undertook the distribution of yarn to powerloom owners at controlled rate. Hike in electricity tariff, New Textile

Policy Reservation of 22 items of cloth for Handloom sector, rise in minimum wages or any such problem whenever arises, the Association takes leading part in advocating the interest of the powerloom owners. In short the Association acts as the chamber of commerce and industries.

Being the pioneer organisation of the powerloom weavers. The Association has played an important role in uniting the weaver fraternity. It sowed the seeds of co-operative culture in the city. To-day the Association is having its own premises in the heart of the city. It sponsored 1st All India Powerloom Weavers convention held in the year 1978.

3.8. BANKING :

The origin of the co-operative banking in Ichalkaranji goes back to The Ichalkaranji Central Co-operative Bank and the various co-operative credit societies founded in the beginning of the century . The same society is today known as The Ichalkaranji Urban Co-Op. Bank. This is the first Co-operative bank in the city. This bank came forward for assisting powerloom weavers when they were in need of money. The bank provided loans also to purchase the shares of Deccan Co-Op. Spinning Mills. Thus the Policy of 'giving birth to new organisation through loan' was initiated in the bank. Today the bank has got a share capital of Rs.45.98 lakhs and has 8572 members.

The next co-operative bank - The Ichalkaranji Janata Sahakari Bank is another stepping stone towards co-operative

banking. It has been established in 1963 with share capital of Rs.1.70 lakhs and 1295 shareholders. Today the bank has share capital of Rs. One lakh and membership above twelve thousand. It has provided loans up to Rs 35 crores through its 9 effective branches. In addition to these two banks, The Ichalkaranji Mahila Sahakari Bank, The Ichalkaraji Kamgar Nagari Sah. Bank, Shivneri Sahakari Bank, Choundeshwari Sahakari Bank, Nutan Nagari Sahakari bank are the local co-operative banks functioning for the betterment of powerloom industry. Excluding the abovementioned local co-operative banks, there are branches of other co-operative banks, also like Warana Sahakari Bank, Ajara Urban Co-Op. Bank, Veershaiv Co-op. Bank K.D.C.C. Bank etc. Branches of various commercial banks, scheduled banks and nationalised banks are there.

3.9. SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES :

a) Area Development :

The salient features of the co-operative movement in Ichalkaranji lye in its socio-economic awareness. The co-operative movements did not follow any such practices that may prove to be harmful for the masses of the region. On the contrary, the main intention behind the cultivation of co-operative movement here is to achieve all round progress. its motivation is the upliftment of the society and not that of exploiting the society. To make the powerloom industry independent in all respects and to percolate the

democratic values through co-operation has always remained the aim of the movement. A glance at various activities will throw light on the noble objectives behind the co-operative developments in Ichalkaranji. The Co-operation movement enhanced the economic conditions of the people and provided employment opportunities. The co-operative movement has acted as a revolution in the region.

b) Textile education facilities :

Having regard to the growth of spinning co-operative, and powerlooms for quite some times was feeling the need for skilled personnel, especially trained supervisory staff, to provide for the existing as well as the proposed industrial units in the region, Dattajirao Kadam Technical Education Society was established in the memory of Late Shri. Dattajirao Kadam, the father of co-operative movement in the region.

The institute is running various textile courses alongwith other technical courses to supplement the expanding powerloom industry in Ichalkaranji. The Deccan co-operative Spinning Mills has lion's share in the establishment of this institute.

The courses run by the institute are on no-grant basis and the institute is run by the contributions made by the Deccan, The ICOSPIN, the Municipality and donations from others.

c) Socio-economic Awareness :

The pioneer spinning mill, The Deccan Co-op. Spinning Mill, in later years made a substantial progress during its advancement. With a view to divert the some

part of profit for social cause and use the same for the benefit of the society, 'Decospin Research Foundation' and 'Decospin Charitable Trust' were founded in 1974. The Foundation has been acting as a guide for the textile industry as a whole and for the powerloom weavers in particular. It is engaged in extending technical know-how to textile industry in the area. Also trust has been undertaking various social activities such as providing drinking water to draught prone areas, digging bore-wells, establishment of small-scale industries for down troddens through co-operative dairy product, sisal fibre project, housing for homeless rural community and advancing bridge money for various irrigation and water harvesting schemes.

3.10. CHARATERISTICS OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN ICHALKARANJI :

- 1) In major parts of the country, the Textile industry is centred and located at the source of raw material and near the vicinity of markets. But Ichalkaranji's Textile industry has neither sources of raw material nor the vicinity of markets.
- 2) In textile industry in general and in other centres in India, firstly spinning industries are established and powerloom industry (Weaving activity) follows it. But in Ichalkaranji the powerloom industry is initial and spinning industry is the later.
- 3) In other places concentration of ownership occurs there in the hands of few members. At Ichalkaranji there is no such concentration because the whole industry

- is scattered in the hands of large number of people.
- 4) In Ichalkaranji , there is healthy competition among political leaders. As a result, instead of rivalry, healthy relations are maintained. It has proved successful in the treatment of weaker industrial units.
 - 5) Powerloom industry here has faced several problems challenging its survival . These include reservation of items for handloom industry, enforcement of Minimum Wages Act applicable to this industry, increase in the rates of electricity, shortage of yarn supply, etc . Many times it was felt that the whole industry will shift over to the neighbouring state Karnataka. But still the industry remains there as a result of courage shown by the entrepreneurs.
 - 5) The entrepreneurs here are foresighted and as such they adopt policies and practices in tune with time. Whenever there is a call for change, they are ready to accept it and provide for it.
 - 7) Barring the case of The Kolhapur Zilla Shetkari Vinkari Sah. Soot Girani, where both the weavers and the cotton growers are members, in other mills only weavers are members.
 - 8) The Industry has created an employment to a large number of people in the area surrounding Ichalkaranji.
 - 9) As a result of developments in the field of looms, autolooms are getting popularity and as a result, they are economical in use . Such looms in the city amount approximately to 1000.

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