

CHAPTER FOUR

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF
TEXTILE WORKERS

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LESSON 4

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF TEXTILE WORKER

INTRODUCTION :

Textile Industry in Ichalkaranji is an earning or Livehood of the people. In Maharashtra, there are 7 lakhs powerlooms and total 35 lakhs peoples were living on it. There are 70000 to 80000 Powerlooms, 23 processing unit, sizing 120 and spinning mill 13 were working in Ichalkaranji. Near about 40000 workers are involved in this textile industry. The Textile industry is one of industry which provides more employment to the workers who migrated here. The main earning source of people is on working in textile units. Peoples life is totally depends upon the textile industry. The ups and downs in this industry affects to the life of people in the Ichalkaranji. The position of workers in Ichalkaranji is too much severe because of many problems faced by this textile units. Due to low wages they are always in find of new work in so many factories of textile industry. Their work is not stable which affects to the life of workers. The problems of

workers is forever. There is no any attempt for the improvement of workers problems.

INDUSTRY ESTATES IN ICHALKARANJI:-

There are three Industrial Estates situated in Ichalkaranji. Under the Industrial Estates, the development of textile industry is possible. This industrial estates are :

- 1] The Ichalkaranji Co-operative Industrial Estate Ltd.
- 2] The Parvati Co-operative Industrial Estate Ltd.
- 3] Laxmi-Vishnu Co-operative Industrial Estate.

Under this Industrial Estates many textile units and other industries are working. Due to industrilisation in Ichalkaranji, it has provided ample scope to the people of migrated to work in this indusry.

The present research work, studies the some of selected textile units under the Ichalkaranji Co-operative Industrial Estate area.

THE ICHALKARANJI CO-OP. INDUSTRIAL ESTATE LTD. :-

Under the greate idealist late shriman Phoolchandji Roomchand Shaha and under the guidance of late Deshbhakt Babasaheb Khanjire and late Shriman Dattajirao Kadam, The Ichalkaranji Industrial estates established in 10th Sept.1959. (See Appendix III for photograh)

The main object of this industry estate is to acquire land with the help of government and construct building [shed] for various type of industry. The main industry in Ichalkaranji is textile ,therefore many industrialists acquired the plots and started their textile industry.

In 1960, the Estate acquired 38" Acre land with the help of Government and constructed 105 plots. Again near this land, acquired 68 Acre land and constructed 235 plots under the scheme of 20:20:60. (see Appendix III for photograph)

Under this Estate the following units are working :-

STATEMENT SHOWING TOTAL UNITS WORKING UNDER THE ICHALKARANJI CO-OPERATIVE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

SR.NO.	NAME OF UNITS	TOTAL NUMBERS
1	Textile powerloom unit	1288
2	Cloth processing unit	25
3	Yarn sizing	27
4	Engineering Unit	18
5	Saw-mill/Timber Depo	8
6	Electronic Unit	2
7	Foundry Unit	3
8	Cantin [hotel]	4
9	Hardness Testing Unit	2
10	Offset Printers	1
	Total :	1378

(see Appendix III for the photography of Textile Powerloom, sizing factory & Processing unit in Ichalkaranji.)

Source : 42th Annual Report of The Ichalkaranji Co-op. Industrial Estate, Ichalkaranji.

From the above statement it can be concluded that, this Estate has given scope for the development of industries in Ichalkaranii. This area probably provided more employment to the people of Ichalkaranji. Due to industrilisation, it has provided advanced technology. e.g. Autolooms, Air Zet Machine, High speed sizing machine etc.

TEXTILE INDUSTRIES UNDER THE ESTATE :-

The main object of this estate is for the development of textile industries. Therefore, this estate has acquired extra land with the help of government in Tardal, Ichalkaranji.

Under the textile industries, many textile units which are related to the powerloom factories are required. A powerloom factory is dependable to the spinning, sizing, processing units of textile industries. These industries are established in this estate and there is in progress of industry in Ichalkaranji.

The Ichalkaranji produces a lot of cotton and

dhoti clothes which supplies to all over India. There is a great demand to the cloth of Ichalkaranji because of weaving of expert quality of suiting and shirting.

The economy is not stable. Ups and down in economy affects to the many industry. Over the last five years, textile industry in facing many problems in Ichalkaranji. The main problems of textile industry is that of inadequate supply of yarn, increase in the prices of yarn, not demand and higher charges of electricity and cut-off electricity etc.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF TEXTILE WORKERS UNDER THE
INDUSTRIAL ESTATE :-

The present research work studied the socio-economic problems of workers under The Ichalkaranji Co-op. Industrial Estate area.

The drain of migration of peoples in Ichalkaranji area is day-by-day more due to its development of textile units under the industry estates. In the year of 1980, many peoples were migrated. After migration ,some of them settled here permanently and some of them re-migrated due to displacement or ups and downs in textile industries. The main causes of their migration are :

- a) For finding of works with good earning.
- b) No suitable atmosphere of their native place.
- c) transfer of the job.

Due to this causes many peoples are working on various units in Ichalkaranji. But overall the peoples are more involved in the work of textile industry. i.g. in powerloom ,sizing and processing units.

Under this industry estate many workers are working in different units of textile. The following statement reveals the total textile units under the Industry estate are.

STATEMENT SHOWING TOTAL TEXTILE UNITS UNDER THE ESTATE

SR.NO.	NAME OF TEXTILE UNITS	TOTAL
1.	POWERLOOM FACTORES	1288
2.	SIZING UNITS	27
3.	PROCESSING UNITS	25

In the above statement which is taken from Annual-Report of The Ichalkaranji Co-op.Industrial Estate reveals 1288 powerloom factory including auto-ooms and powerlooms,27 spinnig mills and 25 processing unit. Near about 4500 to 5000 workers are working on it as a Workers on Loom ,jobbers ,helpers ,warpers ,sizers ,gundiwale , kandiwale etc. (see Appendix II)

The study is restricted to only study of 26 powerloom factories, 3 sizing units and 2 processing units. Under this 26 powerloom factories total 391 workers are working as a powerloom worker, jobbers, kandiwale, diwanji including autolooms. Out to 27 sizing units, under the 3 selected sizing units total workers are 50 and in processing units of 2, total 150 workers are working.

In sizing units there is a division of work. According to division of work, workers are also classified e.g. warpers, sizers, firemen, diwanji.

In processing units also, there is a division of work. Following are the various steps of working in process unit in one process factory or there may be one or more process step of work in one process unit :

- 1) Bleaching
- 2) Scouring
- 3) Mercerising
- 4) Bleaching
- 5) Dyeing
- 6) Finishing

There are 100 to 150 workers are worked in one process units if above all process units are in one process.

Selected samples units of these three units of textile is described below with statements:

The following statement shows selected sample of factories taken for study :-

STATEMENT SHOWING SELECTED SAMPLE UNIT FOR STUDY

SR. NO.	NAME OF TEXTILE UNITS	SELECTED SAMPLES	
		UNITS	WORKERS
1.	TEXTILE POWERLOOM FACTORY	26	100
2.	SIZING UNITS	3	30
3.	PROCESSING UNITS	2	20
	TOTAL :-	31	150

The present study has selected 26 textile powerloom factories, 3 sizing units and 2 processing units for research work. The details of these units are given below:

A] POWERLOOM FACTORY :

SR.NO.	NAME OF FIRM OR FACTORY OWNER	TOTAL LOOMS	WORKERS
1]	Darayappa G. Kore	36	20
2]	Smt.Mahadevi B. Balifadi	34	13
3]	Santosh B.Kulkarni	32	19
4]	Shankar M.Bidkar	28	15
5]	Dattatray P.Ghatge	24	12
6]	Gangamai S. Jagwani	22	12
7]	Lalchand K.Lalwani	20	14
8]	Shankarrao J.Nimbalkar	16	13
9]	Sayaradevi R. Bumb	16	16
10]	Mukund Kanitkar	16	15
11]	Vimalchand G.Punimiya	12	09
12]	Mahadev G. Bhosale	12	09
13]	Vijaykumar R.Rathi	10	13
14]	Shripati Gnapti Bhosale	08	08
15]	Chandrakant M.Bidkar	10	06

CONTINUE..

SR.NO.	NAME OF FIRM OR FACTORY OWNER	TOTAL LOOMS	WORKERS
18]	Kishor S.Kanitkar	24	19
19]	Keshav V.Kanitkar	12	10
20]	Hariprasad B.Shiyotiya	31	26
21]	Dinkar D.Lokhande	24	15
22]	Pandurang K.Bugad	25	25
23]	Arun C.Kakalki	24	18
24]	Bajrang G.Jagtap	16	10
25]	Surendra S.Manglani	16	16
26]	Anila Vijaykumar Shaha	32	19
	TOTAL :	567	391

B] SIZING UNITS

SR.NO.	NAME OF FIRM	TOTAL UNITS	WORKERS
1]	Sakharpe Sizing Works	01	20
2]	Deccan Sizers	01	20
3]	Laxmidatt Sizers	01	20
	TOTAL:-	03	60

C] PROCESSING UNIT:-

SR.NO.	NAME OF FIRM	TOTAL UNIT	WORKERS
1]	Sarveshwar Process	01	20
2]	Balaji Process	01	20
	TOTAL:-	02	40

:-

Under the selected samples of total 268 in powerloom, 3 units in sizing and 2 units in process unit, there are 541 workers are working as a (including) powerloom workers jobbers,helpers,warpers ,sizers ,firemen , diwanji ,accountant.

In Ichalkaranji, we will see three type of workers : a) Settled workers who are settled in Ichalkaranji permanently and working as a powerloom worker.

b) Temporary Workers : Those workers who come for a month or a year and work as a power loom workers and

c) Gundi workers : Those workers who come daily from their near town and work as a Gundi Kamgar. Gundi Kamgar is a worker. Their wages are based on piece wage system but it is calculated on thread of metre. It means a thread is attached on the wheel of loom,it moves one by one when the loom is in working. After the 8 hours of working or 12 hours of working,the total thread is counted in a metre and wage is given. e.g. Suppose the Gundi Kamgar has worked

12 hours and his total cloth of production comes on thread in meter is 200.

Then,

200 metre of cloth production X Rs.0.50 p.m.wage = Rs.100

MIGRATION OF WORKERS :-

The Ichalkaranji is the city of textile industry from last 5 to 6 decades. It is a place which provides greate opportunity for employment. Due to good natural condition, the Ichalkarnaji is the place of trade which provides ample scope to development of people.

The following table shows the number of total workers migrated in Ichalkaranji and they are working under this Estate under the textile units :

STATEMENT SHOWING NUMBER OF WORKERS MIGRATED AND UNMIGRATED

SR.NO.	NAME OF TEXTILE UNITS	MIGRATED	UNMIGRATED
1.	POWERLOOM FACTORY	95%	05%
2.	SIZING UNITS	90%	10%
3.	PROCESSING UNITS	88%	12%
		100	100

In the above table ,there are more migrated workers in powerloom industies. The main cause behind migration in Ichalkaranji is the development of textile industries.

The percentage of migration in powerloom factory is more than other due to more migration of uneducated peoples from other town. (see Appendix II)

There is always possibility of change in percentage of above factories because of workers like to work on more wage. Therefore ,if sizing or processing units provide more wages ,they select such factory and work. A trained workers are working in process units and sizing units. Workers choose only those factory which gives regular more advance .

DISPLACEMENT OF TEXTILE WORKERS :-

Textile Industry has given more scope to the migrated workers in Ichalkaranji. Migrated and unmigrated workers are working under different units of textiles over from the last 2 to 3 decades. But this industry does not provide any permanent job security to the workers. Because of no government control on textile unit and workers does not get any minimum wages. The question of giving minimum wages is to workers is pending since 1986. In 1986, there was a strike from all workers for this issue . After consultation with

government, a sizing units workers are getting allowance i.g. minimum wages. But in 1989, powerloom workers gone for strike for increasing piece wage rate (majuri) for per meter of cloth of production. With the consultation with weavers association and trade unions, it was decided to cut-off the allowance of workers and increment in wages should be provided in each five years. (See Photography of textile workers in Appendix III).

Due unsecurity in powerloom and low wages, it has affected on workers life. Workers started to remigrate to their native town. The textile industry does not provide any job security to the workers in Ichalkarnaji. Therefore, in each year specially in Diwali festive time, workers get bonus at decided rate on total salary (e.g. 15% to total salary) and left the factory. After Diwali festival they choose another factory to work. This is the nature of workers. Some of the workers always displaced from their work because of more wages in other factory.

Friday is the market day in Ichalkaranji. Therefore, workers gets wages in friday and on Tuesday, there is a facility of giving advances to the workers. The workers can work more sincerely in where an

employer gives more advances to him in need. If it is not giving, workers immediately without informing to the owner choose another factory to work. There is some of example of factory where workers are working 15 to 20 years in one factory.

There may be 1 to 2% of workers who are not displaced from their work and working permanently in one factory over the many years. There is also possibility of displacement of workers after 1 to 2 years of working in one factory. But within one or two months more workers are displaced from their works. The cause of their displacement is different in each textile units. The cause may be from the employers point of view or workers point of view. Nothing textile industry is separated from displacement of workers. There is always conflict between the workers and factory owners. There are some of trade unions for workers e.g. The Lal Bavata Trade Union of powerlooms workers, Trade unions of Processing units and sizing association of sizing units. There is also association of powerloom factory owners.e.g. The Ich.Power-looms Weavers

Co-op. Association.

The following statement shows the displacement of textile workers in one year :

STATEMENT SHOWING NUMBER OF WORKERS DISPLACED
in one year

SR.NO.	NAME OF UNITS	TEXTILE WORKERS	
		DISPALCED	UNDISPLACED
1.	TEXTILE POWERLOOM	98%	02%
2.	SIZING UNITS	65%	35%
3.	PROCESSING UNITS	35%	65%

From the above table, it can be concluded that 98% of powerloom workers are displaced from powerloom industry. There is more proportion of male candidates. The main reason of their displacement is that workers are employed on non-permanent basis. Their wages are on piece-wage system and it depends upon behavior of the employer. If the employer is not giving proper respect to the workers and timely wages the worker choose to work in

another factory. The percentage of displacement in sizing and processing units is low because of workers in this units are on permanent basis. i.e. Factory Act is application to the factory. The fixed allowance is given to the workers.

CAUSES OF DISPALCEMENT :-

Textile workers are employed in on non-permanent basis. Therefore, in Ichalkaranji there is always possibilities of displacement of workers from the work. There are many causes of their displacement from the pcint of workers itself and also from point of view employers.

That are as below :

- 1) If the demand of workers is more for wage increment ,there the employer displaced the old worker and employed another workers by giving low wages.
- 2) Due to unhealthy working condition, a worker always wants to do work where there is good condition of working. Therefore, he choose only those factory where, there is a good working condition.
- 3) If the employer is not giving proper behave to the employees, the workers displaced from their work himself.

- 4) If the employer is exploiting to workers by e.g. unnecessary cutting of wages, then the workers displaced from the work.
- 5) Some the domestic problems of workers in their native town may one of cause displace from work.
- 6) Textile Industries doesn't provide any extra benefits to the workers.
- 7) Due to non-permanent nature of work, workers are always changing their work.
- 8) Due to unhealthy competition in Textile industries, many factories are closed. It directly affects to the worker life. They became displaced from their work.
- 9) Inefficiency in old workers e.g. by old age , the employer appoint a new workers who is the young and displace the old inefficient workers.
- 10) Due to development in textile industries, workers are like to work on more wage factory. Therefore, they displaced from their old factory and work at more wages.
- 11) The physical problems of workers is also cause of their displacement from the work.

Under this area , the proportion of displacement is more particular in powerloom factories . Due to immediate availability of work, there is always displacement of workers from their job.

This may be one of the reason of displacement. There are some of workers, who come for one to two week from near town to work in textile factory. There are some of seasonal workers e.g. agricultural who come in Ichalkaranji in summer day for working in textile factory. But during the rainy season, they displaced from textile factory and return back to their town for farm work. Another reason of workers displacement is of availability of Gundi workers in Gundi Katta (The place where workers are available). The agent of Gundi Katta provide workers to the powerloom factory after getting commission from owners of textile factory. The agents commission is Rs.10 per workers. Gundi workers get more wages. Therefore, every workers are working through Gundi Agent. Gundi workers changes their place of work every day from factory to factory.

The following table shows, the different causes

Of displacement of textile workers under the powerloom factory, sizing units and processing units.

STATEMENT SHOWING CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT

SR.NO.	CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT	TEXTILE UNITS
1.	Increase in wages rate	Powerloom factory
2.	Unhealthy Working condition	" "
3.	Unjustice behaviour	Powerloom and Process
4.	Exploitation	" "
5.	Domastic problems	- -
6.	No-extra benifits	Powerloom factory
7.	Non-permanent nature of work	" "
8.	Unhealthy competition	" "
9.	Physical problems	- -
10.	Any Technical Problmes	Powerloom,process,sizing
11.	Inefficiency in workers	- -

Thus, these are the causes of displacement of workers in Ichalkaranji. These causes are from the view point of employer and employees. The owner of textile unit is unable to give more facilities to the workers due to high cost of production e.g. raw material (yarn) and high rate of electricity. Nowadays there is great problem of electricity in Ichalkaranji. This has been affected not only to the factory owners but also to the workers. Due to cut-off electricity from one area to another area also raises the problem of displacement of workers from their work. Due to the displacement of workers from the job, the problem of employment arises in Ichalkaranji. Therefore, many workers are unemployed. Workers became away from their job over the month. Due to closure of many textile units, many workers become unemployed. Over the past one year, there is more percentage of displacement of workers due to closure of textile factories and establishment of auto-looms in Ichalkaranji.

The Deccan Spinning mill in Ichalkaranji is recent example of closure of textile spinning unit. Many workers from this units are became unemployed. There are many

textile factories who are running in loss which it directly affects in future to the displacement.

The above probleme of displacement can be tackled from the ground of both employer and employees. Workers should be provided good working condition ,wages and extra benefits . and there should be the government control on textile units. So that the workers will do their work permanently in the same textile factory with sincerly and honestly.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF WORKERS BEFORE, AFTER EMPLOYMENT
AND DISPLACEMENT:-

The problems of textile workers is severe in Ichalkaranji before, after and displacement of employment. In Ichalkaranji workers are migrated. During migration period, they faces some of problems. After employment in textile factory, they also have some of problems. and after displacement workers problems is severe than before and after employment.

When peoples are migrated, the first problem they confirm is living and next is employment. These two problems can not be fulfilled immediately. After that they face many problems one by one. During migrated period, they strive to the life because of the problems they face. For finding any type work it took too much time. Because of any one could not believing to such new workers.

The condition of workers is not good before employment and after employment. They faces the following problems initially period :-

- a] The problem of education

- b] The problem of work knowledge
- c] The problem of language.
- d] The Problem of living and
- e] The Lack of employment facilities in Ichalkaranji.

With the above problems, migrated people can not adjust immediately to the new type of work. Therefore, their working condition is also affected. For settling in Ichalkaranji they are unable to fulfill needy wants which affects to the family of workers. They can not immediate improve their living condition. Out of selected total units of 26 powerlooms factory the workers are migrated more in 20 powerloom factory. They are specially migrated from Karnataka state, Utter Pradesh, Rajadhan, Andrapradesh. Many workers are from the Karnataka State. They are migrated since 1978 in Ichalkaranji. Still now they are working as a powerloom factory workers. Initially they faced many problems. Now their standard of living is low. Over the 15 to 20 years they have constructed only their own house. Some of workers are living in rental house.

According to opinions of workers, the textile industry only provides income for living without any improvement in life. The inflation in economy has directly affected to the workers life. Workers are getting low wages. In such inflated economy workers could not survive their family members. Due to cut-off of electricity, they get low wages which creates more tension on all textile workers. The problem of textile workers is not limited to one textile unit. But it is related to all workers life. Every things are costly. Textile worker is getting Rs.450 to 600 wages in a week which spend all his income on needy wants without any saving.

The tension of work and family remains forever on workers. They became anxiety in his life. Therefore, they adopt different bad habits e.g. drinking wines, smoking of cigarette, theft etc.

In such a situation He became unable to fulfill all the needs of his children. Children of workers are became away from school and employed in textile factories. Near about 65% of children of workers are left the school and working

in textile factory in Ichalkarnaji. The family members of workers are also employed in textile industry.

This is the real fact regarding the socio-economic problems of workers in Ichalkaranji. This problem is severe on workers. Textile workers are becoming poor day by day. The socio-economic problems of textile workers can be solved with following measures :

- 1) Workers should be provided job security.
- 2) Workers are given minimum wages so that they will be able to fulfill their wants and improve life.
- 3) There should not be night shift of working.
- 4) Financial and non financial incentives should be provided to the workers.
- 5) Workers should be behave nicely so that they will not be displaced from their work.

PRESENT NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT

Now a days to that extent there is no problem of employment in Ichalkaranji. Due to industrilisation, there is variety of employment in Ichalkaranji. Due to increase in Industrial Estates, many textile units are started. Similiarly, due to construction of a special cloth market, there is ample creation of employment. Employment is easy getting way in Ichalkaranji because of no training in required on learning of powerloom. Every worker is no way from employment. Due to all type of business units, there is a crowdly employment situation. Therefore, the main reason for migration in Ichalkaranji is that of easy availability of employment.

The income of the people is also suitable to the needs of the people in Ichalkaranji. Peoples are happy with working. There is no affect of ups and down in textile industry to the nature of employment. Every displaced workers get work on any type of industry. Due to stable employment rate, there is possibility of increase in

the standard of living of the people. But the main disadvantage on employment is that there is no permanent work and no fixed wage system to the workers.

Therefore ,the migrated workers are unable to stable permanently in Ichakaranji which affect directly on employment in Ichalkaranji.