

# **PREFACE**

Khadi and village industries have got many facets which attracted Mahatma Gandhi. It is the most important ingredient of Swadeshi and self-sufficiency. Its importance is manifold: co-operation, rural industries, and the problems of weaker sections and the revitalization of village economy. These were the immediate concerns and Gandhi ceaselessly strove to increase the public awareness of their concern. The increasing population of the country which has added large number of new entrants of the labour force the inability correspondingly to expand employment opportunities despite massive plan investments and the pressures of modern living has all made the problems of economic development sharper and more complicated in the last few decades.

Recognizing the importance of bringing about an improvement in the tool and techniques of production, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission considered it necessary to define the attitude towards the use of power of various processes and in different industries. The view taken was that the movement should have always before it the objective of securing an increase in the level of earnings of the artisans engaged in the different industries and of effecting a reduction simultaneously in the price payable by consumers for the products of these industries.

The criteria that the commission decided to apply in considering the proposals for the introduction of power were broadly defined as under:-

(i.) that there should as a consequence, be no displacement of labour engaged in an industry or specific oppression; and

(ii.) that it should not lead to exploitation of labour in the conversion of self-employed artisans into wage earners taking orders from an agency not under social or community control.

with the rapid and large increase that has taken place in khadi production, the complaints is often heard that quality has deteriorated and constant vigilance has, therefore, to be exercised to ensure that after the preliminary stage is over, the production of the fine yard and better quality of products have been encouraged to cater to the need of the market. The term khadi in the legal sense and as an accepted part of the programme of the All India Spinners Association includes handspun and hand-woven cloth, woolen and silk. Sales of woolen and silk fabrics have been transacted on increasing scales. In the matter of production, certain aids are now being granted by the Commission particularly by way of improved carding plants for woolen industry and cottage basins fir the silk industry. For the silk industry an effort has been made to standardize wages at a fair level. Increasingly, again the production of woolen and silk khadi at all stages is being organized a co-operative basis.

With the paramount need to organize the sale of increased quantities of khadi that are produced in response to the spontaneous demand for traditional charkha in several parts of the country, the out-look of those in charge, some in the khadi movement fear, is likely to become commercialized. With the growth of institutions which undertake the work of production at numerous centres, the spinners and the weavers at the place of production may develop the feeling that they are wage-earners labouring for some entity. Such a feeling is not conducive to healthy growth, nor is it in consonance with the original concept of khadi. The production of khadi cloth was to be an instrument for the reordering of the rural economy and for the growth of a spirit of self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Recognizing the force of this view, for this purpose the khadi commission decided in 1958-59 to give a new slant to the programme for the extension of khadi work. The unit of operation it was proposed should be a village or group of villages with a population of about 5000 persons. It would be a representative body of the local inhabitants, agriculturists and others who should be induced to interest themselves in the promotion of hand spinning and weaving firstly in order to be self-dependent in the matter of their cloth supply and secondly, to provide enlarged scope for employment for under employed or unemployed fellow citizens. In the beginning i.e. first two years, nearly one thousand Gram Ekais have come into existence and it will increasingly assume responsibility for promoting hand spinning and hand weaving as part of an integrated agro-industrial economy. The extension of the

programme of decentralized production of essential consumer goods is worthy of note.

The first chapter introduces the subject in depth covering the area of operation of khadi and village industry in the field of production, trade and employment generation. The next chapter deals with the scheme and programme of constructive work formulated by Gandhi in 1920's and subsequently certain new items were included. The scheme was well drafted and placed before the nation for execution to cover every aspect of national life. Khadi programme was included in the constructive programme initiated by Gandhi for mass mobilization of the people.

As far relevance of khadi and village industries is concerned it is self evident in the Agro-economic situation prevailing in India. In order to provide jobs to every able bodied person it was only effective and practicable in this country based on indigenous skill and low level of capital. It is only pursued labour- using and capital-saving in the light of special circumstances existing in the country.

The fourth chapter is dedicated for diagnosis of the socio-economic structure of Bihar which is a backward state. Therefore the process of development in this state deserves to be radically different from developed states. On account of these considerations khadi and village industries are not only relevant but most appropriate as well.

The last chapter summarizes the study of khadi and village industry operating in Bihar. It is found that it has served very useful

purpose in the past but its present position is not satisfactory. Various causes have been analyzed and appropriate majors have been suggested to revive the industry and make it viable and profitable.

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# CONTENTS

Chapters	Particulars	From
1	INTRODUCTION	1...
2	IMPORTANCE AND FUNCTIONS OF KHADI INDUSTRY IN THE RURAL ECONOMY OF INDIA.	55...
3	ROLE PLAYED BY KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION	108...
4	PROMOTIONAL PRACTICES IN KHADI INDUSTRY IN BIHAR.	161...
5	CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS	205...
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	
	SYNOPSIS	

