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Research Paper History

Development of Indian Small Scale Industries in Western Coast (1700-1800A.d) : A Historical Study

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ABSTRACT

Industries occupy a place of strategic importance in Indian economy in view of its considerable contribution to employment, production and exports, however, 1700-1800A.D.industries in India find themselves in an intensely competitive environment due to globalization, domestic economic liberalization and dilution sector specific protective measures. Most the industries in this western coastal area during 18th century were essentially cottage based handcrafts. Almost all villages had such small scale industries fulfilling the requirements of the local people. Their base was agrarian. The paper tries to bring a relationship between the effects economic reforms in our country and the harsh realities of our growth story of industries development.

KEYWORDS : industries, development, material, production, demands.

INTRODUCTION:

During the period, there was no distinction between the rural and urban industries in western coastal area. They were mostly based on the caste system. Generally, the family was the unit of work, and women and children helped the man in manufacturing. Each weaver's cottage was his own workshop. Although, there were hardly any indigenous capitalist employers, there did exist master artificers who employed fellow artisans and trained apprentices. The most remarkable feature of the industrial sector both, rural and urban was seen in its close correlation between caste and occupation. Which led to specialization, but the skill improvement was mainly due to repetition of work rather than any improvement in the technology of production. [01] This shows the backward and traditional nature of Indian industries before the actual modern industries were set up in the region.

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

In a developing country like India, the role and importance of small scale industries is very significant towards poverty eradication, employment generation, rural development and creating regional balance in promotion and growth of various developments activities**.** Some of the small industries faces are given below:

Salt was of greater economic importance than diamonds. Throughout the world and through the age's salt have been an indispensable article of food and of farm fodder, and an occasional item of medicine. It is sometimes used for its preservative properties and also an ingredient for certain manufacturers like soap or tanning. Manufacture of salt was an important industry and an article of internal trade. It was carried on by two process i.e. mining and evaporation. It is familiar even today. [02] This industry was most common all over the western coast of the state. It was a seasonal industry. The right of manufacturing salt was farmed out to private agencies for a stipulated period and for a fixed amount paid to the government. A large number of workers wree engaged in this industry.

Fishing, the large sea coast of western region has always been convenient. Fishing was done where ever water tanks, rivers and sea coasts were located. The fishing centers were a source of income for the state fishing centers were auctioned to the private agencies[03] .A large number of people like Mahars, Kahars, and Kharkodeas who were engaged in carrying dried salt fish to the market places above ghats and selling the commodity there.[04] The ports such as Roha, Ashti, Pen, Panvel, Nagothana, Kalyan etc. supplied dried salt find to the markets of the country above ghats.[05] Big and small boats were engaged in fishing industry, with the help of nets and hooks. As the transporting and marketing was not that easy the fishing industry could not flourish well.

leather work is the coastal area occupants. Shoe making was their main occupation. Leather was the main raw material needed for this industry. The artisans engaged in this industry were also expert in making horse saddles.[06] The leather artisans were skilled in making shoes. A reference has been made to Dora community, another community of leather artisans.[07] They were expert in making leather buckets and other bucket was useful in getting water from wells. leather jars, shoes, saddles and bags there were manufactured.[08]

Wood work flourished prominently in this period. In rural area this craft fulfilled the needs of cultivators and in urban area the wood work artisans decorated the royal palaces and the mansions of the feudatories. The artistic furniture made by the craftsmen of this period enjoyed wide spread admiration. The carpenters of this age played a very important role in providing the means of transport. The carts, carriages and palanquins made from wood were their creation. Even the ferries essential for crossing the rivers were made by these wood craftsmen. Bassein was also a famous centre of wood craftsmen. Here the artisans belonged to sutra caste or pachkalshi caste (carpenter). The Portuguese brought them from Mungi-Paithan to Bassein. The Blackwood from Jawhar was used for doing this wood work.

Horn work was a famous industry which flourished in this western coastal area state during the 18th century. The artisans mad fancy articles from bison's horns. The artisans from Vijayadurg, Malvan, and rajapur were engaged in this industry. This industry is supposed to have started at Vijayadurga two hundred years before. The required raw material was brought form Malbar and Cochin.[09] Ink stands, card trays, snuff boxes, cups, idols carved with bulls, cobras and deer, combs, chains. Stick handles, various kinds of birds and animals made from the raw material found good market and the artisans could get good earning out of this occupation.

Ivory industry flourished during the 18th century. The raw material in this context was brought form this coastal area. The Parsis from Western coast had the dealership of ivory. It is learn from historical records that as this cottage industry could not compete with the cheap foreign bone comb, it declined in the eighties of the last century. [10]

Saddle making was their traditional occupation in this 18th century and also a chief centre of the military activities. The artisan's experts at making saddles were known as Jingars. The craft of saddle making flourished to a great extent here. The raw material requited for saddle making was metal decorated with embroidery, rope, cloth, belts and ornamental metal boxes.[11]

Rope making industry flourished in west coastal region. Rope making was done almost in every village of western cost. People from mang community were the main occupant's send it was their hereditary job.[12] Rope making was done in all seasons except in rainy season. The rope was made form Ghaypat fibre and a wooden twisting wheel was using din rope making. Ropes were produced of various sized as per requirement of the cultivators.

Jaggery was manufactured from sugarcane juice in this coastal area state. the jaggery industry had pockets in the sugar cane growing areas. The jaggery was produced on a large scale in pargana indapur-karde in sarkar junner.[13] It was also manufactured in Kumbharvalanin paragana Supe.[14] This industry was seasonal and its prime period of production was from December to February.

pottery were the hereditary occupants of Kumbhars**.** It flourished l rural as well as urban areas. The historical record makes a mention f

a difference between the Paradesi and the west coast potters.[15] The paradesi potters were engaged in manufacturing brieks, whereas the coast area potters manufactured earthern pots, tiles ansd bricks too.

Oil crushing industry was known as Telghana. The Teli community was engaged in this industry. The oil mills were scattered all over south-west coast but provinces like Junner and Poone prant had more mills as groundnut, sesame, gingili, castor seed and coconuts were produced on a large scale in this region.[16] Poona was a big centre where oil was produced extensively. .[17] The oil mill included a Ghana and a wooden roller which was carried in rotation by one or two bullocks.

Liquor manufacturing was under certain restrictions. Only those who sought licenses in this regard could manufacture liquor. The liquor industry grew where the coconut trees and palm trees grew abundantly. Liquor industry was a means of subsistence of people belonging to koli and Bhandari community

paper making were the centers Junner and Poona of this western coastal area state.. In later year of 18th century the paper manufacture industry shifted to. Though the paper manufactured at junner was not excellent and popular in the market. It was lasting a thick. The paper industry in this area could not survive for long because it could not compete with the excellent white paper which came from Europe

The **dyeing** industry during the latter half of the 18th century gained ground in western region. The raw material i.e. dyeing material was imported to this area from outside. The sale of all dyeing materials to other dyers was managed by his Leather dyeing industry was also in existence in various villages of this western coastal area state..[18]

A large section of society was engaged in this industry during the 18th century. It was a period when huge mansions, temples, big halls, ghat (stairs) on rivers, dharmashalas at holy places, tanks, dams and drains for public use were built in west-cost region. Owing to extensive construction work a large number of workers got a source of livelihood in this India[19]. A large number of workers were engaged in the building of big temples in the city during the period of 18th century and it provided employment to workers on a large scale.

CONCLUSION

18th century western coastal area Industries development play an important role in assisting bigger industries and projects, so that the planned activity development work in India .they support the growth of large industries by providing ,components accessories. In fact western coastal area industries sector is a very important segment in the Indian industrial sector and would continue to play a crucial role in the modern Indian economy and can breathe vitality into the life of large Indian industries. The raw material required for the production finished goods was imported either from nearby places or from far off places. The raw material required by weavers, was imported from Western coastal area. The output was on small scale and could just meet the requirements of the local people. As the taste and fashion of people remained constant for years together, the demand for finished goods did not fluctuate. There was a balance between demands and supple.

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