

REVIEW ON ECONOMIC HISTORY OF BENGAL WITH SPECIAL FOCUS TO COTTON AND JUTE INDUSTRY

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Abstract:

Textiles focused on jute and cotton, in all grades—fine, superfine, and coarse—were once produced in great quantities in the Bengal province. The output of the looms not only completely satisfied the needs of her population on the domestic market, but it was also exported to other countries where it was highly valued. In the early half of the nineteenth century, the amazing industry spread over the province that enabled surplus production came to an abrupt end. In this article, review on economic history of Bengal with special focus to Cotton and Jute Industry.

Keywords: Economic, History, Bengal, Cotton, Jute, Industry

INTRODUCTION:

The section provides a summary of previous studies that have been conducted in the same general area as the current one. Only a select few are introduced briefly. The demand and supply in the cotton textile business has been analyzed by Omkar Goswami (1985). He claims that only the Powerloom industry and the pure spinning units are thriving. In his book "Personnel Problems and Labour Welfare," written in 1993, D. C. Mathur Personnel management in the cotton textile industry was the subject of "A study of the cotton textile industry."

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

In his article, Kumar (1997) highlighted cotton's value and sought to advocate for it alongside other cash crops. According to Santhanam and Sundaram (1997), India's contribution to global cotton statistics includes the largest cropped area (8.9 million) in 1996–97, the cultivation of the most diverse cultivars in terms of botanical species and composition, and the production of the most cotton fiber quality suitable for spinning yarn with counts ranging from 6 to 120. Spinanger (1999) compared the apparel industry to others of comparable importance in terms of output, export, and economic impact. Shetty (2001) examines the structural issues and market access constraints facing India's textile and apparel sector. The clothing industry in India is notoriously decentralized and technologically backward. Low levels of technology have hindered productivity and prevented the industry from reaping the cost savings that come with volume. The Indian garment industry has a lot of room for improvement, particularly in its narrow selection of fabrics and lack of product expertise. The significance of technology to the development of the weaving industry is highlighted in the work of Seyam (2003). It is imperative for businesses to monitor the development of new technologies. Cotton is the most popular textile fiber in use today, as stated by Hegde et al. (2004). It's common knowledge that people prefer cotton toiletries to those made with synthetic fibers. Kundu (2004) claims that India's cotton textile sector is worth a staggering amount of money. About a quarter of global cotton yarn traffic goes via the country. The textile sector in India is responsible for 20% of the country's industrial output and provides jobs for more than 15 million people. India is a major contributor to the global textile and apparel industry, accounting for 30 percent of total exports from the country. Singhal (2004) noted the disorganized framework of India's massive textile sector. The cotton industry has one of the world's most convoluted supply chains due to the many middlemen involved between the farmer and the end consumer. In 2006, Chandra wrote about the difficulties encountered by India's textile and clothing businesses. India urgently requires both huge corporations able to mass-produce standardized goods and smaller and medium-sized enterprises offering a wide range of products in manageable batch sizes. In 2009, Ace Global Private Limited studied the Indian clothes and textiles markets. Strong per capita income and rising disposable income have greatly aided the industry's transition from selling garments as a commodity to selling them as part of a consumer's lifestyle. According to India

in Business (2011), the Indian Textiles Industry plays a crucial role in the country's economy. The textiles industry is vital not only because it is a necessity for daily life, but also because it helps the economy by creating jobs and bringing in foreign currency. The increasing price of cotton textiles, as reported by Net scribes (India) Pvt. Ltd. in 2011, is expected to drive growth in the Man-made Fiber market in India. Now is the time to implement new technologies in order to save the cotton sector from the standpoint of job creation, foreign exchange revenues, etc.

There are a variety of books, articles, and other publications that explore or conduct study on jute and the jute industry. The majority of the published studies address concerns associated with the cultivation of jute plants, including plantation management, disease, hybridization, and other comparable challenges. Studies on the management of capital structures and the restructuring of the jute industry in a closed economy, as well as studies on the labor problem, have also been conducted. The working conditions in India's jute sector have been extensively covered by Indrani Mukhejee's "Industrial Worker in Developing Countries" (1985).

The value of both natural and synthetic fibers for both commercial and home applications is covered by Gordon in his book "Hand Book of Textile Fibre" (1960). In his study titled "Stagnation of Indian Jute Industry," Kanailal Basak discusses what needs to be done to revitalize India's traditional jute industry within a closed economic system, as well as the current state of the global jute market and its potential for growth. Traditional jute products have great potential for export, as P. B. Dey outlined in his thesis "India's export trade in jute goods since the first development decade" (1977). The purpose of A. Singha's thesis, titled "Study of investment and profitability in Indian Jute industry" (1986), was to investigate the market potential of the Indian jute industry within the context of a closed economy and with the aid of traditional product protection. In his book *Jute in India - An Economic Analysis* (1989), Goutam K. Sarkar covers topics such as the development of the Indian jute economy, the state of raw jute in India, jute product production, consumption, and prices, jute product exports, the future of the jute manufacturing industry, the choices available to manufacturers, and the profile of jute agriculture policy. In his 2003 paper titled "Road map for jute - some critical aspects," J. K. Bagchi highlighted the problems facing the jute industry at the time, including the industry's precarious state due to production and output fluctuations, high labor costs, demand erosion, obsolete machinery, inefficient methods of operation, the jute

corporation of India's operation, the need to modernize jute mills, and other similar problems. He also brought up concerns about regional cooperation and product diversification. In his 2003 study "Conventional Jute Products - Challenges and Responses," Sanjay Kajaria analyzed the jute industry and detailed its advantages, disadvantages, risks, and potential gains.

To facilitate the coordinated and comprehensive growth of the Varanasi Handloom Mega Cluster, the Government of India's Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) launched the Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme in 2011. The Varanasi Cluster's DPR and diagnostic analysis estimate that 45,000 handlooms are operational in the region. As such, it is suggested that all operational handlooms undergo a technical survey. The survey is currently being carried out.

According to a report published by the Government of India in 2010, the rise in the cost of Zari has caused a significant increase in the cost of production for silk sarees. The regular supply of basic raw materials to the handloom sector and helping utilize the full employment potential of the sector are further stated as being facilitated by the Mill Gate Price Scheme (MGPS) implemented by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Government of India, under which all types of yarn including Zari is made available at Mill Gate Price to the eligible handloom weavers throughout the country.

Smt. Rita Menon, Secretary (Textiles), emphasized in this report the importance of modernizing traditional weaving designs in order to compete in both the home and foreign markets. For 2010-2011, the budget for the handloom industry has been increased significantly, from 340 to 426 crores. She advocated for proactive measures on the part of State Governments to ensure that the initiatives of the Government of India reach the handloom weavers. In addition to preserving the art form, Textile Secretary emphasized the importance of incorporating it into the modern setting with the participation of Public Private Partnership. To prevent these techniques from dying out or being replicated, she stressed the necessity of preserving them under the Geographical Indication Act (Registration and Protection Act), 1999. The way forward is to focus on establishing handloom goods as niche products for affluent consumers and style-conscious young people through brand building. The textiles secretary went on to say that in order to establish a sustainable connection between reeling, weaving, and beyond, the handloom sector needs to forge ties with the sericulture sector.

Handloom Mark (2011). This research claims that handwoven goods are currently quite fashionable and in high demand. A genuine buyer looking for good value will have a hard time recognizing a fake handloom product from the real thing. Here is where 'Handloom Mark' can help verify not just the authenticity of handloom products, but also the fair compensation of economically disadvantaged weavers.

The Textile Ministry (2011). In this paper, FICCI proposes the following strategies for R&D: (i) Using successful examples of local and worldwide innovation in technology to inspire industry-wide change; and (ii) Forming memorandums of understanding with preeminent research institutions abroad to collaborate on R&D initiatives. Encourage the use of advanced synthetic fibers and learn about the practical applications of genetic engineering, biotechnology, and cellular biology in both natural and synthetic fiber production. Establish incubation centers to facilitate the transfer of technology and its acceptance by the industry.

D. Narasimha Reddy (2010). According to the data shown here, the handloom industry can count on a vast and skilled worker force as its greatest asset. This is also where India's textile industry excels. Improving this strength and fixing the things that are weakening it are both necessary. Economists nowadays should always bear in mind the first rule of economics: maximize happiness for the most people possible. It's high time the government acknowledged the handloom industry's contribution to the country's long-term prosperity. Government by itself could never sustainably employ such a massive labor force. Governments, following the liberalization logic, must create, advocate for, and encourage employment measures that will not harm the sector. The handloom industry has remained resilient in the face of adversity, thanks to the continued patronage of its products and the fact that it provides millions of weavers with a means of subsistence.

D. Narasimha Reddy (2009). Dr. Reddy claims that over 3 crore families rely on this industry to make a living. The presence of talented weavers in an environment, where investment is growing and the industrial world is aging, would be a great advantage if handled properly, with an emphasis on human resource development and a sector capable of absorbing them in productive employment. The traditional premises and methods of company and product development are being called into question, and it is also shedding light on the hollowness of growth strategies.

Quote from an unnamed EHOW contractor in the Financial Express (18 September 2006). The article claims that irrigation limitations make the annual monsoon season (June–September) crucial to India’s cotton harvest. In places with poor infrastructure for transporting goods, local manufacture accounts for a disproportionate share of the cotton market. The article adds that the Indian government has liberalized the textile industry by cutting import duties and welcoming global investment. It has changed its focus from the manufacture of raw textiles to higher end manufacturing while continuing to provide considerable subsidies to local firms.

Sudesh Kumar (2005). The dissertation concludes that the initiatives to increase the competitiveness of the elements inside the clusters are located within the clusters themselves. Its singularity is likely to be significant, though perhaps not in the ways much of the scholarly literature implies. Clusters can be translated into greater levels of development in a number of ways, not just through industrial specialization and existing governmental build up. The most ground-breaking aspect of industry clusters is the framework they provide for the economic growth of their respective regions. Policymakers can learn to better understand what makes a place prosperous by participating in a cluster development program. This dissertation researched the hypothesis that cluster growth prospects improve with greater institutional and government agency participation in cluster-based methods. Government participation at even the most fundamental levels is essential, as evidenced by UNIDO's success in revitalizing the Jaipur textile cluster. The vast majority of interviewees expressed a need for the government to have a facilitative role in cluster-based growth. Instead, the government in India has consistently stymied efforts to establish any given SSI cluster. Local officials can gain a deeper understanding of the inner workings of their region's economy by analyzing data from industry clusters.

Government of India, Ministry of Textiles, (2003–2005). The 'Diagnostic Matrix' is Cluster Pulse's own methodology for performing cluster-based diagnostic research. In order to provide a view on concerns and solution themes, the Diagnostic Matrix draws on primary research with cluster participants and their database of worldwide best practices.

The Trends of Tomorrow's Fashion Industry (2004). The author argues that the greatest way to ensure quality craftsmanship is through the preservation, resurrection, and study of classic styles and motifs. These patterns are representations of indigenous skills as they have evolved to incorporate new cultural influences and the symbolism of signs and symbols. Today's artisans continue the tradition of making objects with distinctively Indian motifs and patterns, which in turn serve as sources of innovation for the generations to come. This paper places new technology's capacity to preserve, disseminate, and generate new designs based on traditional forms alongside its enhanced capabilities in terms of color variety and color differentiation to highlight the shifting roles of artisans, craftspeople, and designers. It is hoped that this would spark a revival of the art of designing classic textiles. The world of fashion and the public can benefit from the inventive usage of Indian traditional designs by simply exchanging themes and their adornment. This study is further evidence that genuine art is free of constraints and bonds.

Samar Verma (2002). According to the research, India's exports to the EU and the US are, on the whole, export competitive in the MFA (ATC) product categories that are important in India's export basket. It has also mapped out the shifting international trading climate that will have far-reaching effects on the textile and garment industries worldwide. The study has revealed spots where policy action from the state would improve industry competitiveness. While there is no dispute about the tremendous potential that the Indian industry, particularly the garment sector, has, the study indicates that several legislative reforms are required immediately to unlock this latent capability. Furthermore, it appears that market access would become increasingly vital in translating competitiveness into export performance due to the evolving character of the global trade environment.

Textiles: A National Strategy (2000). The handloom industry has a long history of superior craftsmanship. It's the main source of income for millions of artisans and weavers in India. Due to its intrinsic characteristics, such as the ability to produce in small numbers, the willingness to embrace innovation, the low level of capital investment, and the vast potential for fabric design, the sector has not only persisted but thrived over the years. The government will keep

giving this industry high emphasis. Actions would be done to increase its exclusivity for international sales.

Johnston (2003). The authors claim that South Indian Textile Research Association's (SITRA) technological support is strongly correlated with Tirupur's export performance. Ganguli claims that the SITRA institution has had a sizable effect on the efficiency of India's Tirupur clusters. Many other Indian businesses that conduct research appear to hold this institution in high regard. A lot rides on the specific types of economic activity that are taking place at any one time. Opportunities for a business change as local economies evolve through time.

CONCLUSION:

Around 150 years ago, colonial rulers recognized the superiority of jute fiber as a viable alternative to lax and cotton packing, and they so formed the Indian Jute Industry to capitalize on this trend. Until 1947, when partition gave practically all of the primary raw jute growing areas to the erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), India enjoyed unrivalled advantages as the exclusive producer of jute goods backed by vast raw material base and cheap labour. Almost 70% of the area used for raw jute farming went to Pakistan in 1947 when the country was divided (Singh, 1964). These regions were also the most productive for growing jute due to the high quality of the fiber they produced (Nayyar, 1976). As a result, the jute industry in India has been facing a lack of raw jute in both quality and quantity since the 1950s. Therefore, the Indian jute industry was not able to supply all of the outside demand for jute goods (Singh, 1964). Although considerable work has been done by the Indian government to establish raw jute production (Dasgupta, 1975), much more work has to be done.

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