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Textile Manufacturing: A Concise Sectoral Analysis

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Abstract

A substantial portion of India's workforce is engaged in agriculture, a sector that contributes over one-third to the nation's total economic output. With more than 75% of the Indian population residing in rural areas, it is imperative to consider their needs and lifestyles when formulating development strategies. In these regions, agricultural industries hold immense significance—not only do they generate employment, but they also serve as a vital bridge between the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Establishing a synergistic relationship between these two sectors is a central objective of national development planning. Agro-based industries, in particular, play a pivotal role in fostering these linkages. Among them, the textile industry stands out as a key component. This study focuses on the textile sector, exploring the foundational principles that drive its operation and its integral role in connecting agriculture with industry.

Keywords: Agricultural, Fundamental, Textile, Industries,

Introduction:

The textile industry has been popularly acknowledged to be the staple of the Indian economy and as well as one of the oldest and most important craft made by the country. It was women and children dominated by historical background of being based at home and focused on production. However, with time the industry has taken a major shift with much of it being a well mechanized and competitive industry. It provides full or partial livelihood to about 60 million people today either directly or indirectly as a result of producing cotton and textile manufacturing. The industry provides about 18 percent of the total worker force in India, 30 percent of the overall exports as well as 14 percent of the total industrial output in the country which makes it second after agriculture as far as employment is concerned. Textiles industry is one of the oldest and industrially important industries in India that is commonly considered as the spine of conventional Indian workmanship and rural economy. Its development began in the ancient Indus Valley Civilization, the remnants of which provide evidence of spinning wheels and dyed fabrics, thus testifying to the very ancient and uninterrupted nature of textile production in the subcontinent. India was renowned over the centuries in exporting fine muslin, silk, chintz and cotton fabrics via the maritime trade routes, as far as Egypt, Rome, China and the Persian Gulf. Initially home based and decentralized production systems are inherent in the industry mainly practiced in homes in rural areas. This handicraft type of manufacturing highly depended on cheap labor, which was provided by women and children, through spinning,



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weaving, dying, and embroidering--this was quite common, as a very big part of the women and children, were employed in the domestic role. Not only did this generate additional revenue to households but this practice also transformed textile work into part of the socio-cultural life of India, with the areas having particular techniques such as the Kanchipuram silk, Banarasi brocade, Lucknow Chikankari and Kutch embroidery becoming synonymous with region.

But with the coming of colonialism especially to the British industrial policies, this disrupted the indigenous textile networks greatly. Since the introduction of machine-made textiles imported to Britain British machine-made textiles, and, in particular, Lancashire-made textiles, mechanically supplanted the local handloom industries, creating huge economic problems and returning large numbers of the Indian weavers and other artisans to huge unemployment. In the post independent India, they started to rebuild and restructure the textile industry of India, including the balance between the traditional hand loom industry and the modern production in the mechanized cotton mills. The industry is still today one of the biggest industries in the country, following the agricultural industry, and leaving a great impact on the GDP and the values of the country when it comes to exportation. Regardless, the tracking record of gendered work continues to be noticeable women and women who amount to a large percentage of employees in the informal and low-wage sector still struggle regarding wage gap, insufficient social security, as well as exploitative conditions of labor. Nevertheless, Indian textile industry continues to preserve a long heritage of cultural references, regional identity, and socio-economic dependence despite the increasing pace of technological trek and globalization. It, therefore, is a form of economic resource as well as a thriving heritage that links the past and the developmental desires of India.

Textile business is of great importance not simply in economic process but also in improving the human living standards as necessitating one of the most basic needs-clothing. The industry does more than simply make clothes; it provides a variety of textile-based products that people use daily in their homes, healthcare, farming and other structures and infrastructures, hence becoming too ingrained in the daily lives of people. The self sustaining and vertically integrated nature of their value chain is one of the most remarkable about it, falling range begin the production of the raw materials like, cotton, silk, and jute, to spinning, weaving, dyeing, designing, stitching, and through the retailing of the final products. It is a holistic set up which enables addition of value at each step of the production cycle and it is a source of work to people at both ends of the spectrum of skills and geographical locations- more so in semi-urban and rural set ups. It also helps in a big pool of other related industries like agriculture, transport, packing, chemical dyes, and trade which create a strong economic multiplier.

In addition, the contribution of the textile industry to the national economy in terms of GDP, industrial output, and foreign earnings is also very significant comprising about 11-12 percent of the overall exports. It also represents one of the greatest contributors of employment in the country and directly employs more than 45 million people and indirectly through informal and



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artisanal circuits. It helps in poverty alleviation and the social inclusion of a great number of unskilled and semi-skilled laborers; and the fact that such a large percentage of the labor force is women, makes it an effective mechanism of exerting poverty reduction efforts. Moreover, as the sustainable and organic textile production gains popularity, the industry is slowly becoming the model of sustainable business operations with ecological care, seeking to promote economic development without ecological harm. Textile industry not only acts as a business organization but is a life-sustaining system, an ever-changing organization, making livelihoods, saving cultural heritage, enhancing innovation and in a very centralized role building self-reliant, inclusive nation economy.

Regarding the essentiality of the textile industry in the economy and cultural roots of the country, in 1985, the Government of India established its first National Textile Policy to boost modernization, enhance output, and raise the level of international competitiveness of the Indian textile. This policy represented a formal recognition of the huge employment prospects of the sector, its strong rural base and historical importance of the sector as an industry of craftsmen being converted into a buyer of commerce. This was subsequently shrouded by an even bigger Textile Policy of 2000, which charted a strategic course that would make India a big player in textiles and apparel in the global map. This policy established an explicit target of export earning of 50 billion dollars by the year 2010 with the garments sector expected to churn in at least half of this amount. This was to be realized by liberalization of markets, encouraging the development of infrastructure, and upgrade of technology particularly in spinning and weaving. The policy has also emphasized on the necessity of development of textile parks, enhancement of conditions in the labor and interconnection of supply chains to guarantee competence in liberalized world economy.

Yet, significance of the textile industry in India is not only connected with the considerations of contemporary economic goals but also immensely rich and ancient heritage of the country. Early archeological finds of the Indus Valley civilization date to about 3000 B.C. This is based on the foundation of the use of cotton, dyed cloth and complex weaving methods all of which reflect early textile arts on the subcontinent. The popularity of Indian textiles, especially muslin of Bengal and silk textiles of southern India, are attested by historical literature such as the Rigveda and writings of ancient travellers of India like Megasthenes and Herodotus as well as the extensive trade in these Indian muslin and silk textiles in much of Asia including Africa and Europe. This long continuity is more than an indication of the skill of Indian weavers: it acknowledges the pivotal position of textiles in the formation of regional identities, modes of ritual and trade systems. Therefore, it is not only one of the areas of industry that India encompasses; it is the active mix of economic policy, cultural identity, and civilization heritage that different governments of the nation tried to defend and advance by utilizing clever policy measures and actions.



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Textile industry is very crucial in uplifting the standard of living through satisfaction of fundamental human needs. It is a self sustaining entity since it contains the whole value chain, with raw materials production right down to the finished product, this value addition to the whole value chain gives it a huge boost to the national economy. Interestingly, the power of the industry to create higher employment opportunities in all types of work including in agricultural, industrial, organized, and decentralised as well as in the rural and urban sectors, makes the industry all inclusive especially to women and the economically challenged populace. To promote growth in the sector the Government of India came up with first ever specific Textile Policy in 1985. This was succeeded by the Textile Policy of 2000 that was to spur textiles and apparel exports to 50 billion dollars by the year 2010, of which half of the target was to be in the form of garments. Textile textural heritage of India is age old and ancient and extends till 3000 B.C. in Indus valley civilization as has been evidenced by the archeological remains and literature related to it. Travels by Greeks and classical sources, such as Arthashastra, are good sources about the development of the industry, labor and trade regulations. Although the earlier cultures deteriorated the environment, such documents record the cultures and economic value of Indian fabrics. The textile variety of the country can be witnessed in the products as white bark cloth of Bengal, linen of Banaras, cotton of the south of India, and different kinds of aboriginal and distinctive blankets- all of them testifying to the local skill and local culture.

Distribution of Population

Population density and population distribution are two separate but very tight related parts of studying the population. Population distribution describes the geographical distribution of people to various geographical areas with emphasis on how people of the humans are distributed over a land. Conversely, population density is used to gauge how many people reside per square of land and a reflection of the density of population in a certain place. The difference between distribution and density is that whereas distribution is concerned with the geographic dispersion, density is interested in the numerical relation of the number of population and the territory. These trends are drastically different across the regions and determined by numerous types of environmental, financial, and social factors. In respect to nature of its environment, such factors may promote or restrict human settlement or activity.

When the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing came into effect, the Indian textile industry was exposed to keen competition on the global scene. This triggered a new way of positioning themselves more in the control of the whole value chain, that is, the raw fibre production, the manufacture of the finished garment. The focus has now been drawn towards value addition services like innovations in design and distribution through retail so that they can remain competitive in the global market. One of the biggest changes that appeared on the industry is the appearance of technical textiles that performed at an accelerated pace than normal textiles and have various relevant applications such as garments. These textiles cannot



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be produced using basic technology but rather high technology and the skilled manpower which are currently in the developed countries advantage. India needs to concentrate on research and development (R&D), otherwise India cannot command any resulting benefits. Elimination of the MFA (Multi-Fibre Arrangement) quota triggered a new spurt of investments and order-flows leading to rejuvenation of the Indian textile industry. The governmental interventions gave rise to critical rises in the cotton output, industrial power growth, and infrastructural progress. Vision 2010 of the textiles was the policy of the Indian roadmap to modernization of its textile industry, increase in global competitiveness of the industry, to have an increased level of exports and to provide mass employment. It also specifically intended to increase India proportions in the international textile trade twice which once more denotes the desire of the country to position and establish itself as one of the key players in international textile market.

Conclusion

India has already developed Textile Ministries at the central and state level and they all lie under the ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME). The reason is that these bodies have been established with an aim of cultivating and supporting the cottage textile industry that has traditionally served to be a support to the rural and small-scale economies. Although about two centuries ago the textile industry started as an industry that operated in the backyards, the industry has expanded to be a major size of the national economy in India.

The industry has two important segments that are organised and unorganised sectors. The unorganised sector specifically is in line with the inclusive growth policies of the government as it takes care of small producers and traditional artisans. Textile producing processes take place in three basic steps which are spinning, weaving and finishing and all of them play some role in providing clothes and overall industry growth.

Even though the Indian market share of the world textile market is fractions at present, the sector influence is huge. At the present, the number of the textile mills of different size functioning in different regions of the country is not high and makes 276 textile mills, which is comparatively a low scale of production in comparison with the goals of the entire world. Such a limited capacity of the industry points to the importance of involving the government and giving specific attention to this industry. This can be linked to the fact that the few (operative) mills imply that there is a huge potential that is not yet reached to expand, be creative, and provide jobs. By enhancing the policy mechanisms, investing on infrastructure and offering specific support, the textile industry in India could be brought to a higher more competitive and dominant level on the global scale.

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