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## 15. Analysis of Power Loom Problems in Nashik District: A Case Study of Malegaon City

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### **Abstract**

The state of Maharashtra has prominent textile centers such as Bhiwandi, Ichalkaranji, Solapur, Nagpur and Malegaon. The era of Power loom in Malegaon emerged after 1935. Against this background the present study is attempted to analyze the functioning of the power loom industry and assessing the problems suffered by the industry Malegaon tehsil of Nashik District. The study is expected to reveal the deficiencies if any and enable to suggest appropriate measures for the problems of the industry and thereby serve the interest of weavers, trades and consumers more effectively. Present study is based on the data collected from the primary sources. The questionnaire consisting of all aspects of the functions and problems of power loom industry was prepared and 50 power loom owner were interviewed. After employing the statistical techniques finally, it was concluded that although power loom is very crucial business for growth of a community in Malegaon but it is not developed due to lack of financial issue like capital supply, Electricity Problems, Illiteracy, Unskilled Labour, Improper Market Management etc.”

### **Introduction**

The power loom was first introduced in India in the starting of 20<sup>th</sup> century. During the great depression period (1929 to 1933), mill sector started to discard the power loom. (Anjum & Takhur 2011). The Indian Textile industry comprises the large scale industry comprises the large scale well established and well organized mill sector on the one hand and the largely dispersed and unorganized hand loom and power loom sectors on the other (Ashok 1964). The state of Maharashtra has prominent textile centers such as Bhiwandi, Ichalkaranji, Solapur, Nagpur and Malegaon. Malegaon is one of the most important industries of Maharashtra. The era of Power loom in Malegaon emerged after 1935. The cloth industries in Malegaon Flourished due to increased productivity. Malegaon is Famous for cotton cloth, Sarees, lungies, Polyesters etc. The power loom sector in Malegaon is growing fast due to the comparative advantages that it has enjoyed so far. The performance of the power loom sector of Malegaon is quite impressive in terms of volume of the textiles produced and there is no gain saying the fact that the power

loom sector holds immense potential for the industrial production and employment. (Shaikh Faruk & Ashok 2012).

### Aims and Objectives

The present study is an attempt to analyze the functioning of the power loom industry and assessing the problems suffered by the industry, Maharashtra in general and Malegaon in particular. Therefore main aim of study is to reveal the deficiencies, if any and enable to suggest appropriate measures for the problems of the industry and thereby serve the interest of weavers, trades and consumers more effectively.

- 1) To identify present problems of power loom industries in study area.
- 2) To know its causes and effects of power loom industry.

### Scope of the Study

The present work is integrate and comprehensive study on power loom industry of Malegaon city that would show its detailed picture. And it may help to enlighten the pathways to action and give broad indication for different policy options. It is an attempt to discover the factor that accounts for its vitality, strength and weakness.

### Methodology

The study is based on the data collected from the primary as well as secondary sources. The primary data was collected randomly from power loom units and power loom workers, but for this purpose two separate comprehensive questionnaires, were prepared for i) Power loom Units and ii) Power loom workers. The questionnaires were consisting of all aspects of the functions and problems of Power loom industry in Malegaon city About 50 power loom owners were interviewed randomly.

Besides it, secondary data relating to power loom industry was also collected from Government of India Ministry of Textile, Office of the Textile commissioner, power loom service centre, Kidwai Road, Malegaon Nashik.

### Discussion

Statistical Analysis of primary data revealed the variety of problems but major problems identified during study are tabulated as below.

Sr. No.	Nature of problem	Percent of respondents
1	Electricity shortage	82%
2	Labour shortage	45 %
3	Raw Material shortage	76%
4	Finance Availability	72%
5	Lack of Modern Technology	61 %



6	Improper Marketing	53%
7	Unhygienic condition	92%
8	Lack of Government support	75%

### **i) Electricity Shortages**

The power loom owners totally dependent on electricity. But every day the about 82% power loom owners (respondents) faced 2 to 4 hours load shedding problem. In the period of load shedding the production is stopped, and the labours leave their duty and come back when electricity comes back but some of them are very late to join their duty. The voltage fluctuation problems effect on motors and other electrical devices and damage the devices. It has extra expenses and adverse effect on profit of business. Sometimes the electricity transformer is damaged and it takes 4 or 5 days to repair and the production unit shut down during the period of repairing. Overall, it affects on the daily production.

### **ii) Labour Shortage**

Labours is an important factor of every business. Power loom workers are an important section of the unorganized working class .They play a crucial role in the process of cloth production of the country (Pradeep 2014). In Malegaon power looms units, it was found that labour is a big problems for owners. Nearly 45% respondents stated that labours demand advance money upto Rs. 50000/- . But their wages are as Rs.75/ per meter cloth weave and salary is paid salary on weekly basis. Moreover, due to shortage of labour they often demand more and more advance money from owners. And the owners pay money because if he didn't pay they join another power loom unit. Since they are not on permanent basis or not bound of any agreement.

### **iii) Raw Material Shortage**

In Malegaon the yarn suppliers are few and very united. Mostly the power loom owners of Malegaon lack in education they approach only to these local merchant. The yarn price is decided as per their mutual understanding. And they often indicate artificial scarcity of the yarn. Therefore, 76% respondents replied that they often purchased the yarn from the merchant at high prices. Moreover due to lack of finance, owners purchase yarn on credit basis. So they are bound to pay whatever price is fixed by the merchant. As a result, frequently the price of raw materials show upward direction while the price of cloth show down ward or show upward direction.

### **iv) Finance Availability**

Every business is established on the basis of Capital. But power loom owners do not have sufficient capital to meet the requirements. And mostly weaker section i. e. small power loom

owners do not have enough money to run their power loom in a good manner. They are not in position to stock the yarn. They can sell their finished goods on credit for more than one week. About 72% respondents suffered financial problems. They are usually small power loom owners so they borrow money from their friends and relatives. Consequently, they do not handsome profit because they are financially not strong.

**v) Lack of Modern Technology**

In Malegaon most of power looms are old and out dated. The looms are running at a very low speed and manufacture narrow width fabrics. And also due to unskilled labours the productions are very slow. The 61 % owner were not in financial position to introduce new technology like Air-jet, Water-jet or computerized looms. Low quality of raw material used so the finished goods are not in quality that would give good amount of profit. For instance, shirting and suiting material is not produced, only grey clothes are produced which needs further processing.

**vi) Improper Marketing**

Malegaon Power Loom Industry produce only grey cloth, it is then processed in Ahmedabad or Surat or so other city of Gujrat. The weavers of Malegaon Power Loom Industry are dependent upon agents (middleman) to sell their goods. But weavers are exploited by the middlemen. Weavers are not in touch of main buyers who are situated in Gujrat State. Nearly 53% respondents said that middleman usually earn higher profits. In addition, rates of yarn (raw materials) and cloth (finished products) are day to day variable.

**vii) Unhygienic Working Condition**

The working area and sheds of power loom units are mostly constructed by metal sheet (Tin). In summer season not only 92% labours but also owners faced problems of skin diseases due to high temperatures. In addition, the power loom machines also create a very high decibel sound during operation. The noise is so strong that it is very difficult for worker to hear his own voice at the time of working. These noisy environment create serious health issue for workers like hearing problems.

**viii) Lack of Government Support**

About 75 % power loom owners opined that Government has not adequate policies to fulfil this industry. Many owners are not aware about these policies and not get the benefits of these policies. They are pay huge amount of electricity bills as the commercial charges of per unit because it is not subsidized like agriculture sector.



### Findings

Malegaon is a large cluster in Maharashtra where 23,121 units are settled. It has been estimated that about 1 crore meters of cloth is every day produced in Malegaon. Major areas in Malegaon consist of Sardar Nagar, Golden Nagar, Dyane Shivar, Mhalada Shivar etc. Therefore Malegaon Tehsil is one of the most important Textile industries. However present analytical study revealed major types of problems like, Electricity, Finance, labors, unskilled labors, quality cloths improper marketing as well as of raw yarn avaaailability. Consequently, There are many ups and downs in power loom industries in Malegaon.

The study found that power loom has been currently facing problems of improper financial facilities and irregular supply of yarn, shortage or poor working capital, pricing of power loom, products, shortage of skilled labor. The business activity is improper most of the weavers do not have basic knowledge about prevailing market condition and they depend upon the merchants and commission agents. Therefore there is urgent need of State Government intervention for the development of power loom co-operative societies in the Malegaon.

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