

CHAPTER II

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF HANDICRAFT

In the beginning handicraft was carried as an occupation personally and not in a organised way. The social system was so developed that handicraft work was caste based, such as goldsmiths were for the work of gold and silver ornaments, blacksmiths were for the work of iron basically for making the tools needed for farming and household utensils and weapons, tailors were for stitching the clothes, shoemakers were for leather works, etc. These caste were and still are regarded as lower caste or untouchable in the society. Though there will be no discrimination by the constitution of the state on the caste basis, even then the society has not accepted it in practice. Similarly Newars were the farmers, traders and artisans. Likewise Gurungs, Rais and Limbus were also regarded as local artisans basically for the woollen and bamboo work.

Thus, historically it is proved that the large number of occupational caste among the Newars in Kathmandu valley were found as the separate castes of land surveyors, oilmen, dyers of cloth, incense makers, painters, potters, goldsmiths, stone workers, iron mongers, bronze workers, wood carvers, carpenters, ivory carvers, confectioners, brick layers, cultivators of ginzer and radish and florists, hardly more than one or two of which were found in the hill region where occupational castes were generally limited to tailors, leather workers, blacksmiths, goldsmiths etc. (Regmi, 1971).

According to Seddon (et al, 1979), first of all Newar craftsmen started to diffuse from the Kathmandu valley particularly after their persecution and discrimination at the hands of Prithvi Narayan Shah after his annexation of the Kathmandu valley kingdom in the late eighteenth century which led to

the setting up of small settlements and workshops throughout Nepal. Their superior skills quickly started to affect that part of the local blacksmith's income. Copper and tin were continued to be mixed and smelted locally but cash payments tended to be substituted for kind and local domestic economy was in this respect integrated into a regional one.

The handicrafts were produced on the family basis, neighbor basis, village and district basis. The crafts technique were taught by the elders to the youngsters within the family and village, that is why a particular item of hand made good represented (or indicated) a particular place (such as Nepali weapon "Khukuri" refer to Bhojpur, Water vessel called "Karuwa" to Chainpur, Nepali cap "Topi" to Palpa, "cotton cloth" Patan and Kirtipur, "Dhaka" to Terathum, "Radi" to Rumjatar, "Pottery" to Bhaktapur etc.), because different parts of the country were isolated from each other due to the lack of facilities like transportation and communication. The Nepalese handicraft products are still produced in a large range of variety in concepts, materials, methods, functions, sizes and prices. Its trend on product design and development are also diverse from one another.

Now there is department of Cottage and Rural Industry (DCRI) under the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. This is the main Government agency to provide skill training to the people who are interested in this sector. It has three section like Administration of Industry, Planning Section and Industrial Promotion, all these three sections deal with cottage and village industries including handicraft industries as a cottage industry. It has 27 district branches covering all Tarai districts including Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Kavre and Palpa. Other remaining districts are covered by the Cottage Industry Development Board (CIDB). It (DCRI) has given priority to the women for providing skill training in the field of textile, hosiery, sewing and cutting, readymade garment and carpet weaving. But these days DCRI

is providing long-term training only in central and regional offices whereas the short-term training are delivered by the mobile team at the districts whenever necessary. Upto 1986 near about 25163 women got training through center, regional and district level offices of DCVI in different sections (DCVI, 1987).

The CIDB was activated for effective implementation of cottage industry development programme in the 29 hilly districts. The "board" is responsible for undertaking various development and promotion activities for the growth of cottage industries. Similarly the cottage Industry and Handicraft Emporium is responsible for supplying the raw materials and marketing the final products.

The Trade Promotion centre (TPC), an agency of His Majesties Government (HMG) was established in 1971 to promote the expansion and diversification of exports as well as to encourage the growth of country's export capacity and explore export potentiality of the country. Being a non-profit making and focal point organisation for the promotion of foreign trade in general and export trade in particular, its all means and resources are diverted towards the development and strengthening foreign trade by carrying on export promotional programme as its core activity. Recently implementations of import management programme has also been included in the function of TPC with a view to best utilise available resources including foreign resources. It is an international trade medium which centralise the flow of business opportunities on behalf of businessmen both in Nepal and abroad. It also offers information to exporters on customs and transit problems and assists the business community in international market research. The Documentation Unit provides free documented information and counseling services is also provided to all interested parties (Joshi, 1978).

Nepal Industrial Development Corporation (NIDC) was established in 1959 to encourage and assist private industries by providing financial and technical assistance, not otherwise available, but necessary for developing, modernising and improving the status of private industry in Nepal. Now it is also providing management consultancy.

Besides these organisations Ministry of Education, Ministry of Local Development, Ministry of Labour, Department of Co-operatives, Food Research Laboratory, National Commission of Population, Agricultural development Bank are also the government organisations which also provide training to women in handicrafts and food processing.

Development of Handicraft Organisation

Due to the geographical feature and the international condition it was very difficult to establish a big industry in the country. So it was necessary to encourage and promote small industries. Realising this the government started a weaving factory in central jail in Kathmandu and a leather boot factory in Balaju. Similarly, in the mean time, from the people's side "Trichandra Kamdhenu Charkha Pracharak Mahaguthi" appeared as an organised industrial enterprise for the first time in 1927 as textile industry and open spinning unit in different places of Kathmandu. In 1931 a training school for cottage industry called "Technical School" was set up. Cotton seeds were brought from India and planted at many places of the country. Handlooms were distributed on an installment basis. An exhibition was held at Patan with a view to exhibiting the goods produced by cottage industry.

In 1935 a development board called "Udyog Parisad" was formulated with the main objective of promoting agricultural, industrial and commercial

development of the country. This Udyog Parisad further constituted a number of agencies to carry out its specific functions. Among them Nepali Kapada Ra Gharelu Ilam Prachal Adda (office for the propagation of the Nepali cloth and Cottage Industry) was one which concerned itself exclusively with propagation of crafts and small industrial enterprises in the country in 1939, which latter on came to be known as Department of Cottage Industry to revive indigenous crafts of the country. The main objective of this department was to safeguard and strengthen the interest of the native products as well as skills and to attain self-sufficiency mainly in the field of textiles. Its main responsibility was to encourage cotton production among the farmers to provide financial and technical support to the entrepreneurs, to arrange training programme, to import industrial skills to the people and to publish magazine to create industrial awareness among the people. The Nepali Kapada Ra Gharelu Ilam Prachar Adda merged with Tribhuran Gram Bikas Bibhag, which was also a government organisation. Similarly at the same time in 1952 Tri-Chandra Kamdhenu Charkha Pracharak Mahaguthi was merged with Nepal Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, which was established in 1951 and now it is known as Gandhi Smarak Charkha Praccharak Mahaguthi. The Adda (Office) arranged extensive training programme in different parts of the country since 1942 to 1948 and among them Village Female Volunteers School was important which provided training to the female trainers for 2 years on spinning, weaving, tailoring and other household needs. This school was run by 8 female teachers trained at Madhubani, India. Similarly the Adda has also started to provide machinery and tools such as looms and charkhas even on installment basis from the very beginning of its establishment. Likewise raw materials needed for textile such as raw cotton and cotton and woollen yarns used to be imported and supplied to be native industries since 1942.

Product unit was also set up to distribute textile raw materials and also to collect the final product from the village level entrepreneurs. A sales unit was established in Kathmandu called "Gharelu Bikri Bhandar" for marketing the cottage industry production, at the same time its branches were also established in some parts of the country. Similarly for the publicity of the local skills and products a monthly magazine named "Gharelu Ilam Patrika" was published since 1943, as well as exhibitions of the product were also organised during religious festivals and other occasions in 1938, 1940 and 1945.

In 1954 the Department of Cottage Industry was merged with Tribhuvan Village Development Programme, in assistance of the U.S. Ford Foundation under the Ministry of Planning and Development. The Ford Foundation helped for providing financial as well as technical assistance for the development of cottage and small industry in Nepal. But not much progress was made in this sector till 1956.

1956 was the beginning of planned development in Nepal. The First Plan emphasized, among others, in reviving expanding and developing the cottage and small industries in socio-economic and the geographical milieu of the kingdom.

Cottage, village and small industries training cum extension board was constituted both at the central and the districts as a centre of the development to fulfil its policies. To provide update skills to the artisans and also to help to remove the dearth of trained manpower in the field of cottage and small industries in Nepal, altogether 24 training centre were set up, among them 3 were situated in Kathmandu and 21 were in the different districts of the country. The three centers of Kathmandu valley were "Upatyakanchal Gharelu Ilam Kendra". "Jail Karkhana" and "Ashaya Kalyan Kendra".

All these 24 centers provided training on cotton and woollen weaving, brick laying, machine shop, electricity, shoe, ceramics, curio, dying and painting, carpentry, polishing, paper making, tailoring, carpet weaving, bamboo and cane works, silk, bee keeping etc keeping the local needs in mind.

For providing better knowledge and skills, a number of native teachers and students were also send to foreign countries like India, Pakistan, Israel, Japan, West Germany etc. Similarly a number of foreign experts and technicians were brought in the country from India, West Germany, Norway, Israel and Japan to provide training to the Nepalese artisans.

During the first plan period, "Cottage Industry Sales Emporium" was established to provide raw materials, machines and tools etc. which are required by the entrepreneurs and also to act as marketing agency for the products of cottage industry.

To raise women's participation in handicraft production activities from the Government side when the sixth Five Year Plan incorporated major policy measures then only the then Ministry of Panchyat and Local Development, the then Nepal Women's Organization, Nepal Mother's Club, the then Business and Professional Women's Club etc. were involved in the service activities basically the training on income generating activities, for the full participation and integration of women in the overall development process. Among them Nepal Mother's Club, Women Training Centre, Agricultural Development Bank, Federation for Business and Professional Women Nepal, as well as different private handicraft industries and non-government organisations are still providing service activities with the objectives to provide skill development training to the unemployed women and make them able to get employment opportunities.

Association Related to the Handicraft Production

There are some organisations or associations from the public side organised by the entrepreneurs which are related with the development of handicraft production of the country. Some of them are directly related with handicraft production and some are related in general as a business / commerce / export trade and very few are directly related to women entrepreneurs involved in handicraft production. among them some important associations are discussed here.

Handicraft Association of Nepal (HAN) was established in 1971. It is a non-profit making organisation of private sector business community and artisans leading in handicraft trade industry. Since its very beginning, the association has been endeavoring through its various activities for the promotion of handicraft industry in the country as well as for enhancing public awareness of the role of handicraft industry as an employment sector. It has focused its activities to encourage artisans to accept handicraft production as their profession, to advice His Majesties Government and related agencies regarding policy making for export of handicraft products and imports of required raw materials to strive towards enhancing the quality of handicraft goods and to popularise its use.

Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) is an apex body comprising of 62 district chamber of commerce and industry, 36 commodity associations, 250 leading industrial and commercial undertakings in public and private sectors and 3 bi-national chambers. This is not only related with the handicraft production but the overall activities of commerce and industry of the country. Over the years, the Federation has not only strengthened its organisational network internally, but has also developed vast global linkages and affiliations. The Activities of FNCCI are

planned and managed by an executive committee which is assisted by several sectional committees like Cottage and Small Scale Industry, Environment and Technology, Export and Trade Fairs, Money and Finance, Industry and a Investment Promotion, Tourism Development, Transport and Trade, the Employer's Council, and the Women Entrepreneurs Development Committee. Its main activities are to represent the whole private sector in any national and international forum, to provide common views of the private sector to the government, to play key role in organising foreign investment promotion meetings, to provide know-how to exporters and importers with regard to treaty and agreement provision, to disseminate related informations to members and foreign entrepreneurs etc.

Women Entrepreneurs' Association Nepal (WEAN) is a co-operative organised by women entrepreneurs involved in different handicraft production. It was registered in co-operative in 1992 by 32 women as founder members and now it has more than 160 members involved in different large as well as small enterprises. Basically it supports to the women involved in the sector of business and provides training to the women in different handicrafts like bamboo product, clothing, knitting, weaving and food processing. Till 1996 its training programme was supported by the UNDP.

Besides these associations there are other organisations too in the private sector related to handicraft like Association of Nepalese Cottage and Small Industry, Nepal Carpet Manufacturer Association, Nepal Readymade Garments Association, Nepal Chamber of Commerce, Nepal Foreign Trade Association, Bilateral Chamber of Commerce and Industry with countries such as Japan, U.K., South Korea, and India etc.