

CHAPTER - X

CONCLUSION

CHAPTER – X

CONCLUSION

10.0 Conclusion

The development of household industries is essential for the rapid and balanced economic development of our economy. Mahatma Gandhi foresaw the crucial role of small rural industries in the economic development of the country and prepared a model with their central role. The rural small industries got a priority and have been popular since then. But unfortunately the post independence industrial policy resolutions and plans have not assessed their role properly. Household industries or rural industries did not get any separate priority in the plans. Attention has been paid to these industries only for preserving them as a subsidiary source of employment and they have been clubbed together with small-scale industries sector. The various terms like traditional handicrafts, cottage industries and household industries have created a state of ambiguity. As a result, even after five decades of planned development efforts, household industries continue to be an insignificant and inefficient activity untouched by the dynamic influence of industrialisation efforts of the country. The efforts made for industrialisation have brought about no change in the lives of vast majority of the people and widened regional imbalance over the years.

The study confirms that condition of the household industries is pitiable in the study area. Most of the industrial households have hardly sufficient incomes to meet their day-to-day needs. The prevalence of outdated mode of production is evident in almost all the industrial sectors. The industries run on household basis have low level of capital intensity and output. These industrial units are continuing in spite of having loss or nominal profit due to the lack of a viable alternative, lack of proper estimation of cost (specially the value of family labour) and cast affiliation of the entrepreneurs with particular industrial activities. The regression analysis has indicated that in most of the industrial units, there are limited scope for having more workers and in some cases neither size of the units, nor capital appears to be capable of increasing their income generating potential. In brief, majority of the units of different household industries are in a stagnated or declining position. The entrepreneurs of these industrial units are fully dissatisfied with their occupation and they are ready to work elsewhere if jobs on adequate remuneration are available to them.

Household industries have been treated as a subsidiary source of employment.

The study on the other hand has revealed that most of the viable household industries are the main family occupation or the main source of full employment of entrepreneur households and that only those household industries are running as a subsidiary family occupation (i.e. subsidiary source of employment) which are non viable and non-existent.

The household industries are cut off from the main stream of industrialisation efforts. Though they still dominate the rural industrial scene in number, they are sinking because of capital shortage and technological backwardness comparatively. These industries are caught in a low income trap, i.e. they have a low level income, investment, technology, employment, low level of productivity and again a low level of income. It is the policy makers and the government, who does not appear to think about their development in reality and are responsible for the sorry state of affairs. The policy for promoting household industries cannot really succeed unless incorporated in the overall framework of development policy for industrialisation. The present study supports the allegation that most of the development efforts undertaken so far had very little impact on the artisan workers.

The condition of the existing household industries of the study area would have been changed and many other household industries, which are now non-existent, could have been survived, if appropriate action programmes backed by efficient planning decisions could have been taken earlier. The economic backwardness of this sector elsewhere in India is not much different. It is expected that a radical change in the household industrial economy in particular and rural economy in general would occur provided the plans framed are properly implemented and policy recommendations advanced there in are followed.

The weaknesses of household industries rest upon being un-organised with dispersed production bases, lack of working capital at producer's end, diversity of input, making co-operativisation difficult and so on. The challenges and threats to the household industries and workers are competition from organised sector, continued low return, weaning workers away from their traditional occupation, scarcity of raw material and competition from substitute goods. Analysing the status position of the workers in the present scenario, a worker represents the profile of a person with great skill, creativity and capability for self employment, but lacking in finance and unsure of the market and constantly at the mercy of intermediaries who have access to both finance and market. There is a growing need for awakening and planning for

recognition of household industries as a potential sector of Indian economy for optimum utilisation of natural resources through human force for creation of self employment and natural wealth. The strength of Indian household industries lie in largely inherited creativity and skill of artisan workers, traditional and cultural base, low capital investment and high value addition. The opportunities are focused on growing export market especially in developed countries having preferential taste for household industrial articles, awareness and usage of household industries in dress and lifestyles, technological possibilities for reducing of drudgery and improving qualities. Therefore, from the planning point of view, it shows that household industrial sector is full of possibilities for employment and export, but highly un-organised and difficult to service. The approach to planning must be aimed at sustaining the strength and rising to opportunities, and removing the weakness may be converting them to strength and coping with the threats.

The policies and the plans formulated for various household industries have faced criticism and there may occur changes in policy prescriptions and organisational measures which will particularly change the optimality conditions and hence may call for switching over to other alternative project. Yet it is necessary to frame general policies of development of household industries and to identify the means to achieve the goal in the interest of the communities' involved and neglected activities.

Expecting the proposed alternative plans for the selected household industries are put into practice under the supervision of efficient administrators and government's interest to improve the living standards of the workers the conclusion anticipated in this thesis are well within the aspiration of the household industrial workers' prospective of the nation. Many changes in the household industrial economy can be guaranteed if the alternative projects envisaged and the promotional measures of the workers skill and entrepreneurship are efficiently executed. This, in return, will definitely attract a large section of population from saturated subsistence agricultural sector to the prospective household industrial sector. The thesis thus takes shape into a guideline plan of what are pleasing actions and what appears to be practicable for the socio-cultural set up of the people.

Regarding the failures and success of household units, the beneficiaries, functionaries, persons and organisations involved are of different opinions but their replies in general say that there is not much success. As per their feeling, the reason for such a state may be because the problems and needs of the workers could not be

identified properly by the responsible change agents. Therefore, the question is if the problems of the workers are not known, then how will it be possible to place it before the planners or even before the bureaucrats who execute the plans? Moreover because of a wide communication gap between the beneficiaries and the functionaries as well as the persons involved in planning the desirable interactions are inhibited. As a result, there is no proper scanning, and failures are always overlooked and the strong bureaucratic preference steers the new development actions without any ground for rectification of the mistakes which definitely lead to failures.

The past has experienced tremendous failures, therefore, keeping that in mind, the first and foremost need of the hour for the planners, administrators, social workers and agents is the careful identification of the various problems highlighted in the workers culture and motivation and then to understand the methods of implementation of latest policies like new technologies, new product items, changed specifications, new credited and marketing system and many more. A systematic functioning of the entire process will help in removing the obstacles and directing the right path for proper planning and execution. If not done, the development programme for any of the household industries cannot be executed in favour of the impoverished workers for whom the plans and programmes are launched. However, any new development venture has to face both acceptance and rejection at the same time. While implementing such planned programmes, some basic socio-economic structures are subject to change. Therefore, it is mandatory that every planner have an intimate knowledge about the totality of the culture of the given community which in turn will be beneficial for him to identify problems as well as understand the remedial measures. All the same new alternative are gaining familiarity gradually and greater awareness of the physical resources, skills, institutional infrastructures are combining them altogether; a regeneration of the household industrial economy can be obtained through practical knowledge, educational orientation and scopes of finance mobilisation to the workers in successive phases.

The development strategy should be multipronged with a view to eliminate sectoral and regional imbalances. Within the study area, a multipronged attack on the problems of household industries and all conceivable assistance, help, guidance and counselling have to be rendered in their full measure from various institutions engaged in providing necessary resources for strengthening the finances. Up-gradation of technology of production and marketing support and rationalising the whole system of

management, administration and organisation of household industries are other important issues that should attract the immediate attention of all the officials and non-officials involved in the process of development of industries of the sector. It is only a radical transformation of the entire philosophy and thinking on the economics, rationale, technology, operational efficiency and marketability of the products of the household industries. This will enable them to reach their goals of rapid growth prosperity and economic sustainability in the face of onslaughts, fierce competition from the industries of the organised sector. Besides, various incentives should be provided for the development of the household industrial sector. These may be grouped as: sectoral incentives, area specific incentives and entrepreneur-motivating incentives. Sectoral incentives would provide a conducive environment for the rural industrial sector, making it attractive. Area-specific incentives are needed to provide the unit area with various facilities that are needed for the development of the household industries. Incentives are also needed to motivate entrepreneurs to take up household industries with zeal and enthusiasm. Various financial institutions have come forward for the promotion and development of household industries and have introduced several measures including extension of credit facilities. They provide loans for manufacturing, processing and servicing activities in small, tiny, village and household industries. But all these developmental works are going on to a limited extent. Unless these can reach to all section of the artisan workers, the overall development of the household industrial sector is not possible.

Rational and appropriate policy of the government should not only demarcate the spheres in which industries of the household sector have to develop and grow but also enable them to increase their competitive efficiency by re-orienting them into economically viable and commercially feasible small units more than merely protecting them from the onslaught of competition of the organised sector. This increased competitive efficiency will increase their productivity and help revitalisation and growth. The synergic approach and planning between tourism industry and household industrial sector can also create new milestones in the prosperity and economic growth of the study area.

Lastly, it is relevant to point out again that development programmes for the household industries should be in conformity with the overall industrial policy framework. It will help not only in the development of a particular industry but also help for the achievement of balanced and warranted growth level of our economy. It is

high time that we review our past policies and performances impartially and took up appropriate measures for the development of household industries without further wasting time on repeating the mistakes of the past. Otherwise, we cannot fulfill the dream of a developed India even at this age of globalisation.

Recommendations for Future Studies

The outcome of the present study is related to eight selected household industries practiced by many communities in Jalpaiguri district. On the basis of this, generalisation for the entire country or even for West Bengal shall not be perfect without further research. Generalisation of findings need more elaborate studies across several more typical regions considering more artisan workers. Again instead of static study, a temporal study on the growth of household industries could help uncovering the evolution of household industrial activities over times.

The study has opened up further scope which could be interesting research areas for both academics and research on development. The first prospective research area is a study of the younger generation in the villages, their educational changes, their occupations and their livelihoods in particular. The evidence and discussion of this thesis focuses mainly on their parents' generation and was more limited in assessing the changes connected with young people in the household industry.

Second area of research may be on the detailed industry and community specific technological prescriptions and skill generations for improvement of performances. Third area of future study is on marketing and household industrial product consumption. The present study was able to capture mainly the information from government officers, household industrial workers and villagers, but was more limited in gauging ideas and experiences concerning the same from customers in connection with product development. Given the reliance of the modern household industry in the study area on global links, networks and associations, this is important. Lastly, areas of further research are on finance mobilisation, organisational machinery and institutional provisions for implementation of policies related to development of household industries.