

CHAPTER - III

COTTAGE AND OTHER ORGANISED INDUSTRIES
OF WEST DINAJPUR

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3.1.1 DEFINITION OF COTTAGE INDUSTRY

It is desirable to define 'Cottage Industries' which have been playing a prominent role in our national economy. Unfortunately there is no clear cut definition of cottage industries. These have been defined differently, according to the object in view. Sometimes they are lumped with small scale industries, which creates much confusion.

At one time, the Government grouped these industries into two categories - those using powers with less than 50 workers and those not using powers with less than 100 persons with the maximum investment limitation of Rs. 5 lakhs. The criteria for ownership was sole proprietorship or partnership. The major industries were classified under two heads; the traditional small industries, like khadi and Handloom, Village Industries, Handicrafts, Sericulture, Coir etc. and the other modern small scale industries, ancilliary industries etc.¹

The working group on khadi and Village Industries², which examined various definitions and terms related to the Khadi & Village Industries did not give any definition of Cottage Industries and concluded that "the definition given in the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act need not be changed, since a suitable definition by connotation is almost impossible"³

Cottage Industries are thus called village industries, rural industries, agro industries, and unorganised industries. The broad classification and criteria for identification as given by the Industrial policies are

vague and often confusing with small scale sector. The Fiscal Commission, however, made a major conceptual advance in distinguishing between cottage industries and small scale industries on the wage-labour criterion, and the relationship between proprietors and workers.

A cottage industry is thus one which is carried on wholly or primarily with the help of members of the family, either as a whole or part time occupation. A small scale industry on the other hand, is one which is operated mainly with hired labour, usually 10 to 50 hands.⁴

The only meaningful and clear-cut definition as to cottage industries is given by census guidelines⁵ in which cottage industries are termed as household industries (H.H.I.). According to census guideline, the main characteristics of the household industries are the following :

- * One or more members of the household must participate in work. Participation by hired labour must be minimum;
- * the activity should relate to some production, processing, servicing, repairing or making and selling of goods;

- * the goods produced should not be for consumption by the household itself but should wholly or partly for sale;
- * in Urban areas the industry must be carried on in the precincts of the house in which the household lives. In rural areas the industry may be anywhere within the limits of the village;
- * the activity should not be on the scale of a registered factory; and
- * professions such as Pleader, Barber, Doctor, Dhobi etc. will not be household industries.

Thus we have no uniform definition of cottage industries. We have tried to give weightage for all criteria and in our view those industries will be termed as cottage industry which have the following characteristics :

- * industries are highly decentralised;
- * they are self employment enterprises;
- * the scale of operation is small;
- * those adopt simple and easily adoptable technology;
- * family as a whole provides labour;
- * there is low capital cost;
- * there is short gestation period;
- * they use materials locally available, however, imported materials are sometimes used;
- * there is low energy consumption;

- * they cater local markets and
- * they are not subject to registration IDRA Act.

In view of the above characteristics a few industries that may be termed as cottage industry are as follows :

- * Khadi
- * Handloom (Spinning and Weaving)
- * Sericulture
- * Coir
- * Handicrafts like :
 - a) Pottery, b) Blacksmithy,
 - c) Jewellery (except those that are engaged in trade),
 - d) Cane and bamboo works etc.
- * Village Industries like :
 - a) Confectionary, b) Food stuff processing,
 - c) Ghani oil preparation, etc.

3.1.2 IMPORTANCE OF COTTAGE INDUSTRY

According to a recent estimate every second person in the rural areas (which constitute 75% of total population) lives below poverty line. A look into facts reveal that this proportion of landless labourers and tenant farmers and the declining resource base of small and marginal farmers have contributed to this distressing phenomenon. As a result all of these people are competing scarce employment avenues in the countryside. It has also been proved that even a radical land reforms cannot solve

The problem of poverty and unemployment because of the immense pressure on the land.⁶ Therefore, more and more people need to be shifted from agriculture to non-agriculture occupation. The importance of cottage industries is that it is an effective instrument of ameliorating poverty. That poverty and unemployment can be removed through the creation of gainful employment in rural and semi-urban areas is now widely accepted. The decentralised sector of Indian economy accounts for nearly 140 lakhs jobs. Against this sector, organised sector provides jobs about 60 lakh, i.e. employment generation by cottage sector is more than twice than that by the organised sector.⁷

Note : The Father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, saw the peril to Indian rural life posed by the decay of Village Industries. He wrote in 1934 (The Harijan) that extinction of Cottage Industry would complete the ruin of 7 lakhs villages of India. He made effort for rural reconstruction through the revival of Cottage Industries and established an All India Spinners' Association in 1932 and an All India Village Industries Association in 1934. Another great genius of India, Rabindra Nath Tagore also drew the attention of the Country towards rural reconstruction through revival of rural crafts by opening his rural Crafts Centre at Santiniketan. With the dawn of Independence, our elders also realised the importance of cottage and village industries in our economy and included a provision on the promotion of cottage industry in the directives of the State Policy in the Indian Constitution in the following lines - "The State shall endeavour to promote cottage industry on an individual or co-operative basis in rural areas." At the very beginning of our planning, the planners also realised its role. Besides Nehru, Mahalanobis had also assigned crucial role to the village and cottage industries, besides the development of organised sector.

Therefore for symmetrical development of economy there is a need for expansion and development of both organised and unorganised sector.

Cottage Industries Sector, then, has the potentiality to generate employment opportunities at a low capital outlay, by harnessing the existing skills of village artisans.

The relevance of this sector in our economic development can also be traced to its capability to (i) provide work opportunities to people at their own habitats, thus preventing the job-motivated rural to urban migration; (ii) retain self-employed character of labour force in the enterprise; (iii) offer flexible work norms and (iv) ensure the universal participation of family members in the enterprise.

3.1.3 SIGNIFICANCE OF COTTAGE INDUSTRY

The significance of cottage industry over big industries may be discussed as follows :

* Cottage Industries have a high potential for generating employment. Idle man power, which is a serious problem in rural areas can be absorbed to an appreciable extent, thereby relieving the strain on rural economy. It may even work as a useful safety valve for easing the pressure of population growth on the economy as a whole.

* The cost of employment in cottage industry is low as compared to the cost of employment in large and small scale industries. While Rs.1.00 lakh to Rs.1.50 lakh

is required for one person under large scale industry and about Rs.15,000 to Rs.30,000/= under small scale industry, only a few hundred rupees to Rs.5,000/- is required under cottage and village industries.

* Employment is also provided near to workers' residence which avoids problems arising out of migration.

* In a developing economy investment of huge capital is required to catch up with economic growth. The cottage industries with low capital intensity, provide an opportunity for utilizing scarce capital in such enterprises of high capital intensity, such as, transport, power and basic industries.

* Since they mature quickly, they play a significant role in arresting the inflation, specially when production of consumer goods is organised under them. In the development process, an increase in money income without any corresponding increase in supply of consumer goods (it is inevitable, as a major part of investment is made in the creation of infrastructure in the economy) sets in motion the spiral of high prices, high wages and high costs. The cottage and village industries help in relieving this situation.

* Cottage industries ensure maximum utilisation of raw materials locally available.

* Being under the ownership and control of the producers themselves, dispersed throughout the country, they ensure equitable distribution of income and wealth; and problems created by concentration of wealth and unequal distribution of income are avoided.

* Being widely dispersed, they are capable of remedying any regional disparity in industrial development.

* They generate local initiative, entrepreneurship, co-operation and the spirit of self-help. The artisan develops initiative and willingness for hard work as he is the master of his small world. He has got to utilise his skill and intelligence to the best of his ability. He seeks all opportunities and avenues. He renders many services, and produces many articles, which would not be possible if he had to do become wage labourers. In many cases, the cost-price equilibrium is not the regulator of his economic activities. Thus, an appreciable mobilisation of labour resources, capital and skill, may otherwise remain unutilised without the cottage industries. In a poor country, this is not an insignificant contribution to the economy.

* This leads to larger participation by women, thus provides scope for economic freedom to women and pave the way for 'NARIMUKTI' (women freedom).

* Cottage Industry is a unique way for uplifting the standard of living of backward classes like scheduled caste and tribes through self-employment scheme.

* Cottage Industries need no specific knowledge of technical knowhow. This is suitable specifically for India, where roughly 60 - 65 % of total population is illeterate.

Cottage Industries play an important role in a growing economy to meet the gap between sanction of project and starting of production. Due to large expenditure on infrastructure as well as on basic industries with long

gestation period, market situation is often distorted from the equilibrium situation in the first stage of industrial development process. These traditional industries bring equilibrium in the market forces within short period of time.

Jane Jacob, in some recent articles, has emphasised the role of these industries in retaining an economy's resiliency.⁸

3.1.4 A REVIEW OF COTTAGE INDUSTRY IN POST INDEPENDENCE INDIA.

Cottage Industry occupies a key position, particularly in rural sector and backward areas, where no or little effort has been made for development in India.

"The chief aim of planning in India, in the first instance, must be to solve the problem of unemployment as quickly as possible" held Professor Mahalanobis.⁹ Accordingly the national development strategy which he helped to evolve beginning with the second plan, diverted Capital to build a modern industrial base for India and diverted labour to the traditional techniques for production of consumer goods. It was this division of roles between capital and labour which have a place to handlooms, handicrafts, khadi and village industries in the national plan.

It was decided that in view of national importance, traditional industries were to be supported by the plan through a package of measures including a common production programme (common with large scale or

Table T3.1.1

MAIN WORKERS BY INDUSTRIAL CATEGORIES/CHANGES BETWEEN
1961-81.

Categories	X	Y	Z	Z as a
	1961	1981	Change X-Y	% of X
A. Total Main Workers	1887	2225	+338	17.91
B ₁ Cultivators	996	925	- 71	7.13
B ₂ Agricultural Labours	315	555	+240	76.19
Total B ₁ + B ₂	1311	1480	+169	12.89
C=(A-B ₁ -B ₂) other than Cultivators	576	745	+169	29.34
Live Story/Mining etc.	52	63	+ 11	21.15
Household Industry	120	77	- 43	35.83
Manufacturing Industry other than H.H.I	80	174	+ 94	117.50
Construction	21	36	+ 15	71.43
Trade & Commerce	77	139	+ 62	80.5
Transport/Storage	30	61	+ 31	103.33
Others	196	195	- 1	Neg.

* Nos. in LAKHS

* Source : Census Reports

mechanised unit), protective and promotional measures including "reservation", "control", "Fiscal concessions" and "preference to government purchases" where necessary. This policy was underscored repeatedly in all industrial policy resolution and plans.¹⁰

A network of all-India-non-Official institution for khadi (including handloom) and village industries development set up by Gandhi were merged to form a singly statutory body - The khadi & village industries commission (KVIC), as the main official instrument for promotion of khadi and village industries in conformity with development strategy.

In the absence of concrete and comprehensive information, specifically for cottage industries, the census report, whatever limitation it has, is the only source, that gives an approximate view of cottage industry, nationwide. According to census, the position of cottage industry is just after agriculture in terms of employment, and is about twice of the so called organised sector, inspite of a deteriorating trend. According to 1961 census 120 lakh persons were engaged in household industry out of a total of 1887 lakh main workers and 576 lakhs non-agricultural workers. This constitutes 6.35 and 20.63% respectively of the total workers and non-agricultural workers. According to reported figures of 1981 census these figures are 77 lakhs out of total 2225 lakhs and 745 lakhs non-agricultural workers.

Again according to organised and unorganised sector, people employed were 131.97 lakhs and 120.31 lakhs for 1961 and 94.33 lakhs and 71.03 lakhs in 1981 respectively. It is worthwhile to note here that unorganised sector totally belongs to cottage industries. (T3.1.1).

A breakdown of 1981 figures gives the following picture. 796392 workers in Gem and Jewellery, 692697 in Earthenware product, 304999 in carpet, 905807 in mats and bamboo product 242707 in embroidery and knitting, 100 lakhs in handloom, 3016 lakhs in khadi and village industries. 7.5 lakh in coir and 20.5 in sericulture, 11.94 lakhs in leather industry, were engaged, besides a lakhs of workers working part-time and as well as unsurveyed.

So far export is concerned, cottage industries are an important source of foreign exchange. The volume of export in terms of rupee value of these product is gradually ~~ix~~ increasing. In view of severe balance of payment constraint and world competition of high technological product, the development of cottage sector can provide a relief to Indian economy.

In the total export of manufactured goods the share of cottage products is significantly increasing. In 1970-71 the share of cottage products was 22.42 % and in 1981-82 it has reached to 45.98%. The most important items being Gem and Jewellery, Leather products (Shoes and suitcase) Cotton Apparel and Handloom products. This accounts for 25.25%, 8.15% and 3.25% respectively of the total export of manufactured goods in 1981-82 (Table T 3.1.2).

Table T3.1.2

STATEMENT SHOWING THE SHARE OF COTTAGE PRODUCTS IN TOTAL EXPORT OF
MANUFACTURED GOODS

Year	Total Manufactured							(Rs. Crores)	
		Handloom	Hand Craft	K. V. I.	Leather products	Silk	Cotton apparel	Total of 2 & 7	8 as a % of 1
70-71	780(51)	77.00	77.00	.36	72.00	N.A.	9.00	174.90	22.42
81-82	4634(59)	150.92	1170.45	2.52	369	60.00	378	2130.89	45.98

*Figure in brackets represent the share of total export.

- Source - I) RBI report in Currency and Finance (1983-84) Vol. II
 II) DGCIS
 III) Reserve Bank Bulletins on Economic Survey (85-86)
 IV) Hand Book of Statistics of Cotton Textiles.
 V) Central Silk Board
 VI) Annual Report of KVTC.

SECTORAL GROWTH RATE AND SHARE IN N. D. P.

Table T3.1.3

Sector	Share in N. D. P. (Percent)				Annual growth rate
	50-51	60-61	70-71	80-81	
Organised Sector- Manufacturing	5.51	6.88	8.36	9.85	5.55
Unorganised Sector- Manufacturing	4.85	5.20	5.42	5.49	3.95

Source - National Accounts Statistics Published by C. S. O.

The contribution of the unorganised sector to Net Domestic Product is also significant and is gradually increasing. From this point of view there is no reason to undermine the importance of cottage industry in "National Economy". In 1980-81 the share of unorganised sector was 5.49% of NDP against 9.85% of organised sector.

3.1.5 HISTORICAL REVIEW OF COTTAGE INDUSTRY IN WEST DINAJPUR

The district of West Dinajpur is mainly agricultural. The bulk of the export from the district consists of agricultural produce, but there are references in early times to some manufactured articles, which assumed all India fame. One such article was the variety of cotton fabric known in an ancient Indian literature as 'KSHAUMA'. This variety of fabric has been mentioned in the ARTHASHASTRA of KAUTILYA as a product of the Paundra Region.

It appears from the letter which Mr. George Hatch, then Collector of the district Dinajpur, wrote to the Board of Revenue in December 1787 that the main articles of produce of the district were grain, silk, cloth and jaggery. So far as manufacture of silk is concerned it must be borne in mind that at the time when the letter was written, the district of Dinajpur contained the whole of Malda and that portion of Dinajpur which is now in Bangladesh. In the absence of concrete evidence it is difficult to say whether silk formed an important item of produce of the district of West Dinajpur. So far grain, cloth and jaggery are concerned, however, it can be said with confidence that these articles were produced towards the end of the nineteenth century in the area which now comprises the district of West Dinajpur. The East India Company had a resident in Malda Town, who was

in-charge of the commercial side of the company's activities in the district of Dinajpur. It appears from the correspondence between Mr. Hatch, the collector of the district, and the resident at Malda, Mr. Udney, that there were a number of weavers in the Parganas of Mahinagar, Santosh and Malduar. Most of the weavers sold their produce to the resident at Malda and the resident took especial pains to obtain for them concessions from the Collector, regarding the payment of rent on the lands held by them but his efforts were not crowned with success. Mr. Hatch reported to the Board on the State of Cotton cultivation and production of cotton textiles in his district in the year 1789. According to him there were some lands on which cotton was grown and the rent of the cotton land was the same as that paid for arable land in general. The quantity of cotton grown in the district was not, however, sufficient to meet the local needs and between 2500 to 2000 mds (93 to 112 tons) of cotton used to be imported every year from the district of Sirhind and Benaras. Thread used to be spun by women. The thread was utilised for the production of cotton fabric worn by the local residents.

From the report of Dr. Francis Buchannan Hamilton (in 1803-09), it appears that after agriculture, it was spinning and weaving, which provided livelihood to a large number of persons. Besides a considerable number of families were engaged in manufacturing of bricks and tiles, manufacturing of beedi, preparation of ornaments (jewellery), preservation of food stuff and oil manufacturing and weaving of mats and rope and in blacksmithy. From the account given by Dr. Francis Buchannan the families engaged in works other than agriculture numbered as follows :- 2000 families in oil making, 1200 in bamboo and cane work, 200 in leather work, 500 in weaving of mat, 800 in manufacturing of beedi, 1200

Table T3.1.4.

STATEMENT SHOWING
THE PERSONS ENGAGED IN COTTON WEAVING AND SPINNING IN BENGAL

District	Cotton Weavers		Spinners	
	1872	1921	1872	1921
Burdwan	25109	8138	N.A.	26
Birbhum	7676	4575	4266	
Bankura	6731	10213	1474	N.A.
Midnapore	26828	17128	6713	001
Hoogly & Howrah	17531	11276	2375	1016
24 Parganas	7304	3588	1798	3756
Nadia	14096	7917	1996	80
Murshidabad	12230	5342	2653	214
Malda	4826	4179	1535	258
Rajshahi *	6665	2200	1284	151
Jessore & Khulna *	20163	19402	1553	58
Dinaipur	4019	2806	766	506
Rongpur	5493	446	858	133
Pabna*	15780	11596	916	877
Dogura*	3178	1456	256	98
Darjeeling	317	134	11	01
Jalpaiguri	1297	2050	327	91
Dacca*	18383	17616	5053	215
Faridpur*	14849	17613	2253	731
Bokharganj*	14434	10049	1309	187
Maymanshing*	14596	9908	2240	301
Chittagong*	8830	11333	8819	4065
Noakhali*	7281	8713	2285	712
Tipperah*	20041	12964	9678	309
Total	257494	200824	60418	13786

* These are not excluded since -

- i) These are part of Pre-Independent Bengal.
- ii) Considerable Portion of Crafts migrated to present Bengal following the partition of Bengal and riots.

Source : i) H. Beverly - "Report on the Census of Bengal, 1872

ii) W.H. Thompson - Report on the Census of India
Vol. V Part II Cal. 1923.

in pottery, 700 in carpentry, 300 in bricks and tiles manufacturing, 700 in metal work, 750 in blacksmithy, 1600 in jewellery, and 3825 in spinning and weaving of cotton. Besides these, a large number of families were engaged in preparation of garland, hukka, manufacturing of card and agricultural implement, jute spinning and weaving, paper making etc. Though according to Buchannan these figures were approximate, we can derive, an approximate picture from the figures and can view the importance and existence of works other than agriculture in the district.

The British Policy of de-industrialisation of India destroyed the handicrafts of West Dinajpur along with that of other regions of India. Handloom was the worst sufferer in this process. After agriculture the cottage industry, particularly handloom (weaving and spinning) was the most important source of employment in Bengal. Handloom weavers were scattered in the rural areas as well as in the urban centres in almost all the districts of Bengal. In 1872 there were about 257494 weavers and 60418 spinners in Bengal. These figures were reduced to 200824 and 13786 in 1921. In West Dinajpur these figures were 4019 and 2886 in 1872 and 766 and 506 in 1921 respectively (Table T 3.1.4). Thus it follows that from the later period of the nineteenth century, the weaving craft of Bengal, so also the Dinajpur crafts started to decline, facing competition from Lancashire's machine made and cheaper piece goods and high protective and discriminatory tariff against local handloom products. Some weavers continued to produce goods of a coarser variety, which were in demand by the vast majority of rural people. A few artisans shifted to agriculture sector and joined as agricultural labour and some others joined other professions. Thus the very bone

of self-sufficiency was not only destroyed but also the chances for its future expansion was extinguished, Lord William Bentinck, reported in 1834 "The misery hardly finds a parallel in the history of commerce. The bones of cotton-weavers are bleaching the plains of India."¹¹

3.1.6 COTTAGE INDUSTRIES IN WEST DINAJPUR - 1951-81.

West Dinajpur is a backward, village based agricultural district with no natural resource or qualification suitable for large scale industry. Naturally cottage industry stands next to agriculture as a means of livelihood. Moreover large inhabitants of backward classes i.e. scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, have enriched the base of cottage industry.

About 8.56% of the total number of workers derive their livelihood from cottage industries. Not only a large number of workers with their dependents are engaged in cottage industries but also there are part-time workers, specially small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers, who work in cottage industries, when they find no work elsewhere. It is important to note here that in 1961, 1156 households worked part-time as against 947 households worked regularly in household manufacturing sector.

The most important cottage industries of the district are manufacturing of beedi, handloom, dhokra and rope, carpentry, foodstuff processing, bricks and tiles making, manufacturing of mats, bamboo, cane and cork product, besides general handicrafts like, jewellery, blacksmithy, leather work, embroidery and knitting etc. In the following paragraphs we shall discuss them in details.

Table No. T3.1.5

DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING POPULATION AND ESTABLISHMENTS
IN HHI AND NHHI IN WEST DINAJPUR

Year	<u>Establishments</u>		<u>Household Industries</u>		<u>Non-household industries</u>		Total
	Total	Rural	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1951	5852	5002	6508	1628	Neg.	Neg.	8136
1961	7863	6210	4799	4998	8683	1142	19613
1971	4959	2605	5709	3309	10365	3976	23369
1981	7667	4773	9076	5858	15017	3435	33366

Source : Census Report.

Table No. T3.1.6

DISTRIBUTION OF WORKERS AND ESTABLISHMENTS - INDUSTRY-WISE IN
WEST DINAJPUR

Industry	1951		1961		1971		1981	
	Establish- ments	workers	Establi- shments	Workers	Establish- ments	Workers	Establish- ments	Workers
Handloom (Weaving)	455	1690	267	1030	258	2972	508	6986
Jute (Spinning & Weaving)	109	111	47	270	29	345	27	625
Textile Miscellaneous	NA	NA	283	752	645	3484	325	3591
Beeedi manufactur- ing	26	520	98	1305	165	2040	209	3595
Food Stuff processing	478	2227	1079	3700	1300	4981	1527	5553
Wood works & Carpentry	94	1346	81	4501	112	2567	175	3256
Bricks, Tiles & Pottery	53	1406	232	1980	344	1596	368	4115
Mat, Hand Cork, Bamboo product	NA	99	280	850	NA	1277	NA	2000
Leather product	NA	253	NA	353	NA	160	NA	1133
Black & Cepper Smithy	98	265	269	874	325	1340	390	1673
Jewellery silk	153	219	211	998	165	770 1327	490	359

Computed from Census report of 1951, 1961, 1971 and 1981.

The number of establishment in cottage industry according to census report of the district were 5852 in 1951, 7863 in 1961, 4959 in 1971 and 7667 in 1981. Of the total number of establishments 5002, 6210, 2605 and 4773 respectively were situated in rural areas. The employment in these establishments were 8136 in 1951, 19613 in 1961, 23359 in 1971 and 33386 in 1981 besides part-time and seasonal workers (Table No. T 3.1.5).

HANDLOOM (SPINNING & WEAVING)

Handloom was one of the important industries in West Dinajpur district in pre-independence period. In spite of havoc fall in this industry, nationwide, due to competition with mill products, it still constitute the bone of village economy, specially in backward region.

In 1950 there were 455 establishments of handloom in this district and most of them were situated in villages. In 1960 the number of establishments reported was only 267 and for 1971 and 1981, these numbers were 258 and 508 respectively. The employment of main workers besides part-time workers were 1690, 1030, 2972 and 6986 in 1951, 61, 71 and 81 respectively (Table No. T 3.1.6)

The handloom establishments are mostly centered in the villages throughout the district. The villages having concentration of handloom establishment are - Parpatiram, Kajilash, Faridpur of Balurghat P.S., Gangarampur of Gangarampur P.S. Balijol, Keotal, Paloibari of Itahar P.S., Bajorgeon, Mithapur, Bishnupur of Karandighi P.S., Nandoi, Matikunda of Islampur P.S., Bhatol, Tezpur, Pratappur, Karnajora, Bhomra, Paschim Mahadebpur, Goaldaha of Raiganj P.S. and Samaspur of Hemtabad P.S. Among the Police Stations Itahar, Raiganj and Gangarampur account for 75% of handloom industry.

The handloom of West Dinajpur produce goods mainly to meet the demand of village people. The principal products are 'GAMSA' 'TOWELS', 'DHUTI', 'SAREES' (405 x 405), 'MASARI' (Mosquito net). These products are made of coarse thread, however the products of fine thread are also produced, but at lesser quantity. The design of these products are very simple and non-attractive.

Handloom products of this district are sold throughout the village markets of the district and also exported to neighbouring states and districts.

It is important to note here that West Dinajpur is not a cotton producing centre. The handloom of this district is entirely dependent upon the imported yarn. In view of importance of this industry in providing employment, we shall discuss in further details of this industry in next sections which is the core section of this research project.

Handloom Industry consist of a number of process which are :-

- * cotton ginning, cleaning, carding, pressing and bailing;
- * cotton spinning;
- * bleaching of cloth and yarn;
- * tie and dye (badhani) of cloth and yarn;
- * weaving;
- * printing

Among these processes the spinning of cotton is totally absent in this district in household sector.

JUTE INDUSTRY (DHOKRA AND ROPE)

Jute is the principal cash crop of this district. Naturally, it is expected that there should be large number of establishment in manufacturing sector base on jute. But the district is an exception. The jute goods production in this district is very much insignificant. Whatever produced from jute is in, cottage sector. Jute industry consist of :

- * jute pressing and bailing;
- * jute spinning and weaving of mats(dhokra);
- * making of rope and cordoge out of jute;

Jute pressing and bailing establishments are scattered throughout the district in urban areas. According to 1951 census report there were 109 establishments of jute pressing, bailing, spinning and weaving. In 1961 the number of establishment were 47 and in 1971 and 1981 these numbers were 29 and 27 respectively. The employment in this industry were 111, 270, 345 and 625 in 1951, 1961 and 1971 and 1981 respectively (Table T 3.1.6). In jute industry 'dhokra' is an important cottage product of Kaliyaganj, Karandighi, Goalpokhar, Hemtabad and Kushmandi P.S. Since most of the artisans work part-time, it is very difficult to give actual number of artisans and the scope of employment in dhokra industry. A study conducted by N. Bandopadhyay,¹² shows that as much as 1200 artisans are scattered in the region - Kushmandi to Goalpokhar. Spinning of jute is done generally by female workers and weaved by the males. So far rope is concerned it is manufactured throughout the district. We

can hardly find out any people in the rural sector both male and female who does not know the technique of rope manufacturing. There are vast market of dhokra and rope.

TEXTILE - MISCELLANEOUS

This is an important handicraft industry providing livelihood to large number of people. This industry includes - making of carpets, manufacturing of readymade garments and knitting fabrics and garments (n.e.c.), embroidery and making of phulkari, making jori thread, making of cap, hat, manufacturing and repair of umbrella. There were 283 establishments in 1961, 645 in 1971 and 825 in 1981 and provided employment to 752, 1372 and 3591 persons in 1961, 71 and 81 respectively. We have seen that the workers and establishments of this sector are symmetrically distributed over the district with albit skew in urban areas (Table T 3.1.6)

BEEDI INDUSTRY (TOBACCO PRODUCT)

One of the cash crops of Dinajpur is 'Tobacco'. A large number of main workers engaged in beedi making. Beedi processing is purely a cottage industry. Availability of tobacco and 'beedi patta' helped this district to have export outside the district. It is mainly a product for village peoples and for low income class. According to census reports the number of establishments were 26, 98, 165 and 209 in 1951, 61, 71 and 81 respectively. The employment in this industry were 520, 1305, 1527 and 3595 main workers in 1951, 1961, 1971 and 1981 respectively. Besides the main workers there were a large number of workers, specially widows and housewives of lower income class work part-time at home.

It is an industry which needs no fixed capital. On field investigation it is seen that with a scissor and small square tin plate as capital, a worker can earn Rs.8/- to Rs.12/- per day (Table T 3.1.6).

MANUFACTURING OF FOOD STUFFS

Processing of food stuff accounts for a giant share of establishment as well as of workers in household sector and non household sector. This industry consists of hand pounding of rice by 'DHEKI' or 'UDUKHAL'; production of flour by village chakkies and by grinding of wheat, maize and gram etc; grinding of chillies and turmeric; production of pulses; parching of grains; making of gur and khandsari; manufacturing of achar, pickles, chutney and murabba; production of bread, biscuit, cake and other bakery products; production of ghee and dairy products, making of chura, muri, murkhi, khoi, chanachur; oil pressing by ghani, kolhu, or by small machines; making of sweets, laddu, peda, batasa, barphi etc. and beverage.

A large number of village people specially women earn their livelihood by processing and selling - chura, muri etc. Hand pounding of rice by Dheki or Udukhal, is an important activity of rural women all over the district. Oil making stand next after processing of grains. Confectionery or bakery is also notable.

The number of establishments as per reports of census were 473 in 1951, 1079 in 1961, 1300 in 1971, 1527 in 1981 and employment of main workers as per census reports were 2227 in 1951, 3700 in 1961, 4981 in 1971 and 5553 in 1981 respectively, besides a huge number of workers these have worked either part-time or as subsidiary occupation (Table No. T 3.1.6).

Out of 1079 establishments in 1961 grain processing establishment accounts for 229 (21.22%), oil making 472 (43.74%) confectionary 295 (27.34%) and bakery products 67 (6.2%).

CARPENTRY (MANUFACTURING OF WOOD
AND WOODEN PRODUCT)

Under the synonymous names Chhutar, Sutrodhar and Baroi we must include joiners, cabinet makers, carvers and carpenters of all kind. The main activities are - manufacturing of wooden furniture and fixture; manufacturing of structural wooden goods (door and window); manufacturing of agricultural equipment, plywood; manufacturing of boats, photo frame, and manufacturing of musical instruments.

There were 1346 workers in 94 establishments, 4501 in 31, 2567 in 112 and 3256 in 175 establishments engaged in 1951, 1961, 1971 and in 1981 respectively (Table T 3.1.6).

The manufacturer of wooden products have centered in urban areas, because of demand situation. In the rural areas carpenters are part-time worker and artisan of inferior quality, mostly engaged in manufacturing of agricultural equipments and transport equipments like 'CART'. In Gangarampur P.S. there are some carpenters who manufacture boat. The condition of carpenters in rural areas is miserable, however in urban areas, the skilled artisans can earn a moderate standard of living.

BRICK, TILE, POTTERY AND OTHER CLAY PRODUCT

The soil of this district particularly of Balurghat, Kushmandi, Raiganj and Goalpokhar P.S. is suitable for clay products viz. bricks, tiles, pottery etc.

Brick industry in this district is flourishing day by day following increase in constructional activities and is no longer produced in household sector. On investigation it is found that most of the workers engaged in brick industry are migrated labour from Ranchi and Purulia districts of Bihar and West Bengal. The brick is one of the items of export from the district.

Brick manufacturing is seasonal work. During summer and rain, the manufacturing of brick is not possible since they are manufactured in open field. During off season, the labourers either return to their home or do work as agricultural labour and constructional worker.

Pottery is mainly a household industry. This industry need no capital. Once there were considerable number of potters in the district. But their number is gradually decreasing and are shifting to other occupation following decreasing demand of pottery ware due to availability of aluminium, tin and steel utensils. Pottery are mainly sold in village hats and its main consumers are rural poor people. Potters are otherwise named as KUMOR, and belong to backward class.

Tile is manufactured in household as well as non-household sector. It is used for roofing purpose, and has demand both in rural as well as in urban areas.

Manufacturing of brick and tile do not required high degree of skill. The artisans are just labour. But pottery needs high degree of skill.

The technology of these industries are simplest. For brick and tile just mould, made of wood or iron is necessary. For pottery wooden wheel is used.

After the manufacture of products, they are burnt. Brick is burnt in a large woven, and coal is used as fuel. Tile and pottery are burnt using straw as fuel.

Census reports show that there were 53 establishments in 1951, 232 in 1961, 344 in 1971 and 368 in 1981 with employment of main worker as follows - 1406 in 1951, 1986 in 1961, 1596 in 1971 and 4115 in 1981. In 1961 out of 232 establishments 14 were brick manufacturing and 204 were pottery. In 1981 out of 368 establishments, 96 were brick manufacturing and 272 were pottery. This shows considerable growth in brick industry. The brick industries account for 76% of total main workers belong to this sector. Another factor that was observed in course of study is that the employment of male workers is more than female workers. Male workers constitute 87% of total workers in this industry (Table No. T 3.1.6).

MAT & BASKET MAKING INDUSTRY (BAMBOO AND CANE PRODUCT)

Mats and baskets are use all-over the district. The mat is used as wall, ceiling and roof of houses; compound-fences, boat-roof and cart cover. It is made of cane and bamboo, woven crosswise and is both cheap and serviceable. The local name of mat and chatai. Basket is also manufactured from split bamboo, though cane is sometimes

employed for finer work. This basket is of many kinds and play an important role in daily and economic life of people. Different kinds of baskets are used for carrying earth or manure, fruits and vegetables, washing rice and many other purposes. The finest example of this work is that a large closely woven basket used for storing of grains and the hemispherieal basket of different sizes called 'DONS', universally used for weight of grain. The artisans also make the umbrellas, which is almost used by every family in the rainy season. The top is made of double net work of split bamboos and leaves of the 'Sal' or of the 'Banyan' tree. The local name of such umbrella is 'TOPOR'. These goods are always prepared by the patonis for sale; but if required they can make many others. Such as fine and coarse screen (chiek and chali), chair (chauki) and tools (moras).

The mat of this district is famous and is one of the principal commodities of export from the district. The demand for mat and basket is often so considerable, that merchants are under the necessity of making advances. The artisans of these products are scattered evenly over the district, and the areas of concentration are Balurghat, Tapan, Banshihari, Kushmandi, Goalpokhar and Karandighi P.S. The artisans mostly live in villages.

Manufacturing of mat and basket is mainly a subsidiary occupation of the workers. So its exact position particularly in providing livelihood to people could not be known. However from the census reports the available figures are as follows : 99 workers in 1951; 850 in 1961, 1277 in 1971 and more than 2000^{workers} in 1981 (Table No. T 3.1.6).

LEATHER INDUSTRY (LEATHER PRODUCT)

Leather industry being a traditional industry has great employment potential. Again the major man-power for this industry is provided by persons belonging to the economically and socially backward classes of the society. Traditionally the commodity has been reserved of the so called backward classes as well as of the minority community. Traditionally too, the income generated by this sector have been amongst the lowest in the industrial field. The balanced development of the industry must, therefore, take note of this fact and must be so adjusted that, along with rapid growth, the benefit of that growth, percolate down to the lowest level.

Leather industry has a number of distinct stages, each have their individual characteristic. The first stage is playing of an animal, removal of hides and skins and curing and preserving them to maintain their quality and to prevent decay. The next stage is tanning and finishing of hides to leather through vegetable tanning and chrome tanning. The third stage is production of various types of leather goods. The production of footwear and leather goods is labour oriented and does not require heavy investment. These therefore could be handled by the cottage sector.

The manufacturing of leather is by no means so thriving, as it might be made, probably ~~own~~ owing to the very low rank of the artisans. According to census report there were 253, 353, 160 and 1133 main workers engaged in this industry in 1951, 1961, 1971 and in 1981 respectively. The establishments are in most cases individualistic (Table No. T 3.1.6).

The hides which they dress are those of oxen that have died a natural death, and those of goats and sheeps. Goat' skins are used in large scale. The products produce by the artisans are shoe, trunk, belt and sandle. An arti-san can manufacture 8 to 11 pair of shoes in a month. The shoe makers have little or no capital, but make fair earning. Every native, that can afford it, wears leather shoes.

The district possesses large number of domestic ani-mals viz. goats, cows and buffaloes. According to livestock census of 1972 and 1977 the position of livestock of this district was as follows :-

Year	Cattle	Buffaloes	Sheeps	Goats	Horses	Pigs	Others
1972	803128	54639	7790	382104	1962	37907	111
1977	796446	42283	9503	498380	933	39828	5

Goats are mainly used for meat purposes. Thus huge amount of skin available in the district, ensured, regular supply of raw materials to leather industry.

BLACKSMITH

Blacksmith (Kumar) occupied a key position in the basic metal works, so also the brass and copper smith. Excepting the recent development in modern small scale industries in this sector, however small, it was the Blacksmith and Coppersmith that supplied and manufactured the articles demand-ed by the consumers of basic metal. They manufacture by the iron of their own, and retail at markets, the common imple-ments of agriculture such as the plough share, sickle, bill,

hoe (KODAL), hatchet (KURAL), khonta and weeding iron. They also manufacture some household furnitures such as ladle, pothook, kitchen knife, and lamp (standing and hanging) and some coarse cuttery, such as knives scissors and beetle-nut-cutters. When ordered by the barbar, they make razors and nail cutters. The blacksmith can also prepare an instrument called 'Kajollota', which is placed over the lamp for collecting smoke used as paint.

The other products that they produce are lock and pad lock, arms like sword and spear; clamp for boat builders, boiler, large ring for wheel of cart etc.

The blacksmith cannot work alone. He must have a man to blow the bellows and an assistant to work with a large hammer.

Blacksmith is also belong to backward classes; living at subsistence level. They usually need no capital excepting some fixed investment in 'kammer,' 'hapor' and 'forceps'. The technique of manufacturing is generally transferred by heredity.

Brass and Copper smith in this district is not much significant and just available. Brass and Copper smiths are only concerned with the repairing (sometimes manufacturing) of utensils.

According to census reports there were 265, 874, 1340 and 1673 main workers engaged in this industry in 1951, 1961, 1971 and in 1981 respectively. Their workshop is generally a small hut made of straw and bamboo. 98, 269, 325 and 398 establishments were reported to have in the district in four successive census (Table T 3.1.6).

The distribution of smith is symmetrical all over the district and have concentration in village hats (Market).

JEWELLERY

Jewellery, is a same percent handicraft industry and till 1981 it was given the status of cottage industry. But considering the growth, earning and other commercial aspects it is now considered as organised industry. In spite of government decision, jewellery still considered and have the cottage status in backward and rural areas.

In this district working with the precious metals and stones is at a very low ebb with regard to skill, excepting some recent development in urban areas. The artisans are sufficiently numerous. As reported in the Census of 1951, 1961, 1971 and 1981 the main workers engaged in this work were 219, 998, 770 and 859 respectively in 133, 211, 465 and 490 establishments respectively (Table T 3.1.6). The establishments are gradually shifting from rural sector to urban sector. Urban sector accounts for 75% of the establishments as against 30% few decades ago. This shifting mainly due to increasing demand in urban areas as well as on security perspective. This industry mainly employed the male workers.

Most of the artisans are poor and produce ornaments after getting order from consumers and in majority cases the consumer has to supply raw materials too. There are a few establishments that supply raw material (Gold) and produce Ornaments at a commercial scale.

The artisans of this district are not much enough skilled. For most of the fine works and final polish they move either to Calcutta or to Siliguri.

The condition of the artisans gradually worsening following fall in demand due to increasing hike in price of gold. Excepting in occasional time (specially during marriage season) they virtually find not enough work for maintaining their livelihood. According to their report, the volume of work as well as demand in ornaments has decreased to 40 to 50% from that of two decades ago. Most of the artisans shifting from, gold works to silver works and also they are shifting to other occupation following a dark future of this industry, particularly in rural and backward areas where condition and standard of living of people worsening day by day.

Here we have tried to give an account of entire cottage industries available in this district. In our account we have discussed the industries which are providing considerable amount of livelihood to people. There are a lot of other products, though insignificant individually, but significant if summed up. These minor productions are - palm gur manufacturing, building of image of God and toys, making of artificial flowers and garlands, collection of shells and burning them for lime, preparation of ornaments and crown from the SOLA (These products are in great demand in marriage and for ornamentation of image of God), preparation of medicine from vegetables and roots, manufacture of wax, candles, preparation of cake from cowdung, preparation of dry fish etc.

No attempt has been made to find their production in quantitative term. This is just not possible since they are mostly unorganised. An idea about the contribution of cottage industry to the society as well as their share in N.N.P. (Net National Product) and N.N.I. (Net National Income) can be had from the wage structure and wage intensity of different products. And accordingly we can estimate gross production in money value taken into consideration the average earnings of artisans per day or month, average productive capacity, average time of work done in a year, wage structure and number of worker engaged both full time and part-time. This process of estimation still not free from defects, since in household establishments the process of work is facilitated by all members of family, where contribution of each is not possible to be measured.

However if we assume that (i) workers engaged in any industry earn their minimum livelihood and (ii) they will not work if they find that the occupation is not paying their livelihood, then only occupational structure is sufficient enough to visualise the significance of cottage industry in the national economy as well as in the economy of backward region. The degree of development (growth) in these industries, if any, that has been made, is to be measured by measuring the growth in number of workers, wage and working day for which artisans are really engaged. In the next chapter we have tried to work out the growth of these industries.

An understanding of other large and small scale organisations in industrial sector (specifically in secondary sector) is also necessary to highlight the position of cottage industry in the economy of West Dinajpur. In the

next paragraphs we have tried to work out the composition and growth of large and small scale industries(modern) in secondary sector in the district of West Dinajpur.

3.2.1 ORGANISED SECTOR IN WEST DINAJPUR

West Dinajpur was never industrially prosperous. It is one of the most backward districts in the State so far as industrialisation is concerned. Except for a few rice mills and oil mills no industry had made any headway so far. There were only 13 registered factories in 1951 and all were rice mill. The number of factory workers was 980. In 1961, the number of factories reported was 34 with 1684 factory workers. Of the 34 factories, 32 were rice mill, 1 Tea State namely DEVIJHORA TEA STATE and 1 paper mill namely KULIK PAPER MILL. The employment in these factories other than rice mills were 93 (Table No. T 3.2.1). The district is empty of large scale organisations except a few number of Medium Scale Organisations. The number of small scale organisation gradually increasing. The important point to be noted that, whatever development has been made in this district during 1951 to 1981 in organised sector, has been made, sacrificing the interest of cottage and village industries. This is apparent from the composition of small and large scale organisations. The development of organised sector in this district, whatever achieved, has been made after 1960.

As per report of 1971 there were 2354 workshops in the district, of which 75 were registered factories and 2279 were unregistered workshops in secondary sector. 46 (61.33%) of the registered factories employing workers 2447, were engaged in processing of food stuffs and beverage;

Table No. T3.2.1

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED FACTORIES
AND WORKERS EMPLOYED IN WEST DINAJPUR.

	1951	1961	1971	1981	
No. of Factories	18	34	32	30	Additional employment during 1951-1981 = 455 workers
No. of workers employed	880	1684	1767	1634	

Source - Chief Inspector of Factories of West Bengal

Table No. T3.2.2

STATEMENT SHOWING THE REGISTERED SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIAL
UNITS AND WORKERS EMPLOYED.

	Units	Workers	Composition
1951	NA	NA	Oil Mills, Husking Mills, Flour Mills, Soap Manufacturing, Bricks Manufacturing, Coak Manufacturers, Motor Body Building, Gril works, leath works, Beedi manufacturers.
1961	NA	NA	
1971	43	1820	
1981	2205	16670	

Source : Directorate of Cottage and Small Scale Industries.

Table No. T3.2.3

CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY BY INDUSTRIAL SECTOR.

Year	Consumption thousand KWH	Percentage of total consumption
1961	189	35.14
1981	5053	33.21

Source : Divisional Engineer, WBSEB, Raiganj.

Table No. T3.2.4

DISTRIBUTION OF COMPANIES AND CO-OPERATIVE INSTITUTIONS OF WEST DINAJPUR

Year	No. of Companies	No. of Industrial Co-operatives	No. of Non-Industrial Co-operatives (Agricultural + Bank + Consumers Co-operatives)
1951	NA	3	3
1961	2	59*	94
1971	7	5	69
1981	9	36	617

* Including two Mahila Samities.

* Industrial Co-operatives denotes Co-operative engaged in manufacturing of goods.

Source: i) Registered of Co-operatives Societies,
West Bengal

ii) Registered of Companies, West Bengal.

mainly consists of rice mill, flour mill, oil(mastard) mill etc. 16 of the registered factories employing 641 workers and 5 of the registered factories employing 280 workers were engaged in manufacturing of beedi and handloom weaving. Among the rest 4 factories employing 97 workers, were in wood and embroidery works; one employing 100 workers in manufacturing rubber goods; 1 employing 139 worker in jewellery; 1 employing 11 workers in non-metallic mineral products and 1 employing 72 workers in textile; miscellaneous. Of the registered factories in 1971, 43 were in small scale units and the rest 32 factories fall within the category of medium scale organisation. In 1981 there were 30 registered factories employing 1634 workers and 2205 registered small scale industrial unit employing 16670 workers, most of them were in secondary sector (Table No. T 3.2.1 and T 3.2.2). The increase in the number of registered units is mainly due to registration of unregistered units which were reported as unregistered N.H.H.I. Units in 1971 census. Table No. T 3.2.4 shows the distribution of companies and co-operative organisations, which are, even in total constitute very insignificant number in relation to total manufacturing organisations. No Public Sector companies were reported to have in the district till 1981.

In view of the consumption of electricity by industrial sector, which was just 35.14% in 1961 and 33.21% in 1981, in relation to the total consumption of electricity, we may conclude that the district is very much poor in respect of industrialisation. However in view of increase in absolute figures of consumption, which was 184 thousand KWH in 1961 and 5053 thousand KWH in 1981, we may conclude that the district is far ahead than what it was in 1951 (Table No. T 3.2.3).

Table No. T3.2.5

**Distribution of Working Population in Tertiary Sector
West Dinajpur**

	In Construction	In Trade & Commerce	Transport & Communi- cation	Total	% of total population
1951	NA	8970	1661	10631	1.47
1961	2057	18124	2889	23070	1.74
1971	1303	19334	5950	26587	1.42
1981	2262	44200	7768	54230	2.25
Change from 1961 to 1981	9.96%	143.8%	168.86%	135.00%	

Source : Census Report.

Note : The greatest contribution in tertiary sector is of Trade & Commerce. This is because of the fact that the migrated peoples from Bangladesh started to retail goods, finding no other means of livelihood.

Table No. T3.2.6

STATEMENT SHOWING WORKERS IN ORGANISED SECTOR

Year	Total workers	% Total population	% of Total workers
1951	880	0.09%	0.333%
1971	1684	0.12%	0.388%
1971	2587	0.14%	0.496%
1981	18304	0.76%	2.36%

Source : District Statistical Report, West Dinajpur.

Total employment in organised sector was 0.09%, 0.12%, 0.14% and 0.76% of total population in 1951, 1961, 1971 and 1981 respectively. As a percentage of total workers these figures are 0.333%, 0.388%, 0.496% and 2.36% respectively (Table No. T 3.2.6). Thus it appears that so far employment is concerned the role of organised sector was almost negligible during the last 30 years in this district.

Investment in these industrial units has not been studied. Since we are interested to know the importance of organised sector (SSI Units and Medium Scale Units) from the point of view of income generation or in other words employment, we have simply studied the workers engaged in these industries. Again mere investment or value added figures are not sufficient enough to disclose significance unless they are compared. But this do not fall within the scope of the present research project.

The growth in tertiary sector is insignificant if we exclude trade and commerce from this sector. The trade and commerce sector, which includes retailers, was more or less trippled in 1981 from 1961 (Table No. T 3.2.5). The other industry namely construction witnessed, factually no growth from 1961 to 1981. Transport and communication industry has provided employment to 4879 additional workers in 1981 which is though not much significant in absolute term but is 1.7 times of the worker engaged in 1961 in this sector. The enormous increase in retailers have no parity with any other industry in this district. The main reason of such increase is attributable to migration. The migrated persons from Bangladesh, have mostly started

retailing of goods, because of its some advantages which are 1) low amount of capital investment, 2) no technical knowledge is necessary, 3) no gestation period is required, 4) no marketing cost involves and 5) no risk of normal loss.

No modern small scale industries or ancillary industries are reported to have in this district, excepting a few establishments engaged in repairing of sophisticated articles, automobile and in leather work.

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13. A sort of vegetable tree grown in water.
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15. After 1971, all NHHI establishment engaged in manufacturing of goods are required to be registered as SSI Units.
16. Modern Small Scale Industry-denotes manufacturing of electronic, electrical goods, tools and equipments etc.