


## P R E F A C E

From time immemorial Cottage Industries have been occupying an important place in the village economy. Cottage Industry was the other name of economic self sufficiency. In spite of its decline during the British regime, its expansion and growth was sought for industrialisation of rural and backward areas. West Dinajpur a study of whose Cottage Industries is the purpose of this volume, is a backward area in terms of its demographic characteristics and Industrial content.

The study presents a historical account of the industry in West Dinajpur, its economic relevance and the factors contrary to its growth and expansion. The study has examined the multiple problems at micro level, tested the probability of potential growth and suggested some course of action that may lead to the economic improvement of the millions engaged in the industry.

This study is the first of its kind for West Dinajpur and largely exploratory in nature. However, just one study, like the present one, cannot be adequate to cover all the gaps in our knowledge about the industry. There is always a scope for a more specific and indepth examination. Hence, the study ends with suggestions for further lines of research to examine other dimensions of the industry.

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