Role of Gandhi's Khadi Textile Industry Towards Inclusive Growth and Corporate Social Responsibility

Pankaj Dixit[a*], R.C. Lal[b]

[a, b]*Department of Commerce & Business Administration, M. M. College Modinagar,(U.P.), India*
Email Id: pdixt2989@gmail.com

Abstract

In this research paper, we focus on the ''Role of Gandhi's Khadi Textile Industry towards inclusive Growth and corporate social responsibility in present scenario. Gandhi's Khadi movement was a relief programme for the poor masses living in India's villages. Spinning and weaving was elevated to an ideology for self-reliance and self government. Gandhi saw it as the end of dependency on foreign material (i.e. foreign rule) and giving a first lesson on real independence. Raw material at that time were entirely exported to England a re-imported as costly finished cloth, deriving the local population of works and profit on it. Gandhi also felt that in a country where manual labor was looked down upon. It was an occupation to bring high and low, rich and poor together, to show them the dignity of hand labor. Now, the situation of country has been drastically changed. We are second largest exporter of textile in the world. But, still the workers and labour welfare conditions and social responsibility of textile industry is incomplete to fulfilling the vision of Gandhi's Khadi movement. At present, the Modi's Government recently launched the ''Start up" and "Make in India" programme also supported by Gandhi's Khadi movement to achieve the higher economic growth, but Gandhi did not satisfied with this exclusive Economic Growth rate, he wanted inclusive growth rate without sacrificing the welfare of society and workers. At present, Textile Industry efforts are still not sufficient. So to convert weaknesses into advantages, textile firm now working on corporate social responsibility (C.S.R) is a grand panacea to all problems of textile industry.
Key words: CSR, GDP, PMSBY, PMJJBY, APY.
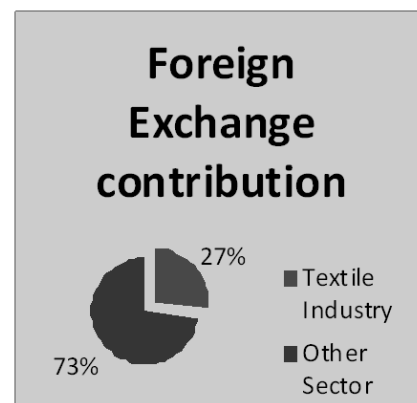
*Corresponding Author

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Historically

The Gandhi's khadi textile movement was ideologically woven around the need to provide supplementary work to idle or under-employed rural hands. As it was designed to cater primarily to a rural workforce, every village shall plant and harvest its own raw-materials for yarn, every woman and man shall engage in spinning and every village shall weave whatever is needed for its own use. In the first half of this century and in many parts even now, farmers have not enough work to earn their living throughout the year. About four months they may be idle due to the rainless dry season. Spinning would thereby supply the readiest occupation; it can easily be learnt. It requires practically no outlay or capital, even an improved spinning wheel can be easily and cheaply made. Gandhi saw it as the end of dependency on foreign material (i.e. foreign rule) and giving a first lesson on real independence. Raw material at that time were entirely exported to England and re-imported as costly finished cloth, deriving the local population of works and profit on it. Gandhi also felt that in a country where manual labor was looked down upon, it was an occupation to bring high and low, rich and poor together, to show them the dignity of hand labor. Khadi required simple, comprehensible technology and a local resource base for both its production and consumption. It was a social venture in which khadi was to be a national industry in the interest of the masses. Khadi economics mean the production, distribution, exchange and consumption of hand spun yarn and hand woven cloth. It was important from the point of view of the diminution of unemployment, increase in national production, increase in the purchasing power of the poor and the collective wealth of the nation. His stress was on the removal of poverty, ongoing work to the unemployed and underemployed millions, on seeing that villages are not denuded of their wealth, on trying to get villagers employed and happy without uprooting them, on saving man from being exploited through the capitalistic society. It was his basic and elementary humanism, ultimately based on the spiritual experience of oneness of being the root of his economic and social theories and practice.

1.2 In Present Scenario

Gandhi's Indian textile industry is one of the leading industries in the world. Though it was predominantly unorganised industry yet Indian textile industry largely depends upon the textile manufacturing and export. It also plays a major role in the economy of the country. India earns about 27% of its total foreign exchange through textile exports. Further, textile industry of India also contributes nearly 14% of total industrial production of the country. It also contributes 4% of the GDP of the country. Indian textile industry is also the largest in the country in terms of employment generation. Indian textile industry currently generates employment to more than 45 million people. According to a general estimation this industry will generate 10 million new Job by the year 2017. But there are some weaknesses which this industry is facing.

Foreign Exchange contribution

27% ■ Textile Industry
73% ■ Other Sector

Some of the main weaknesses may be shortlisted as under:
1. Use of outdated manufacturing technology,
2. Huge unorganised and decentralized sector,
3. Low energy efficient machine and technology,
4. Irresponsible behavior toward environmental sustainability,
5. Negligence in providing social security to their employees,
6. High production cost,
7. Import of cheap textiles from other countries,
8. Poor supply chain management.

However Indian textile industries are now realizing their responsibility toward the various parties associated with them and the environment. But efforts are still not sufficient. So to convert weaknesses into advantages, textile firm now working on corporate social responsibility is a panacea to all problem of textile industry. The concept of corporate social responsibility is fairly recent one in the business world. Awareness about the social responsibility of business organisation is rapidly on the rise and Firms are also accepting this concept. The textile industry is no exception. Textile producing and trading firms are also realizing their responsibility toward society and the environment. The main purpose of the research is analyzing the concept of social responsibility and common ways in which textile firm try to fulfill it.

1.3 What is Social Responsibility?

Social responsibility is an organization's obligation to maximize its positive impact and minimize its negative impact on society. In other world, it is the basic concept on which business should be actively concerned with the welfare of society at large. The concept of social responsibility is applicable to individuals and government as well as organizations. The social responsibility of an organization is referred to as corporate social responsibility.

1.3.1 Social responsibility can be broadly divided into two parts:
• Human responsibility and
• Environmental responsibility.

Human responsibility: It refers to the responsibility of the organization towards the various parties associated with it, which is known as stakeholder, is business' parlance.

These parties include employees, shareholders, the government, customers, investors, suppliers, competitors and society at large.

1.3.2 Environmental responsibility: It refers to the organization's responsibility towards environmental protection. By integrating above concept it can be said that Textile and Garment should be manufactured, produced and handled in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner whilst balancing the interest of diverse stakeholders.

2. PROBLEMS FACED BY KHADI TEXTILE INDUSTRY & ANALYSIS

Gandhi's Indian textile industry is among first modern industry. Textile industries are largest employment generating industries in India. But they are still adopting old colonial period methodology. These industries include highly unorganised sector and irresponsibility toward environmental sustainability. Our government is trying to implement concept of corporate social responsibility in textile sector but they are not implemented on ground level effectively. There are many micro and small scale industries which are unknown about the concept of social responsibility.
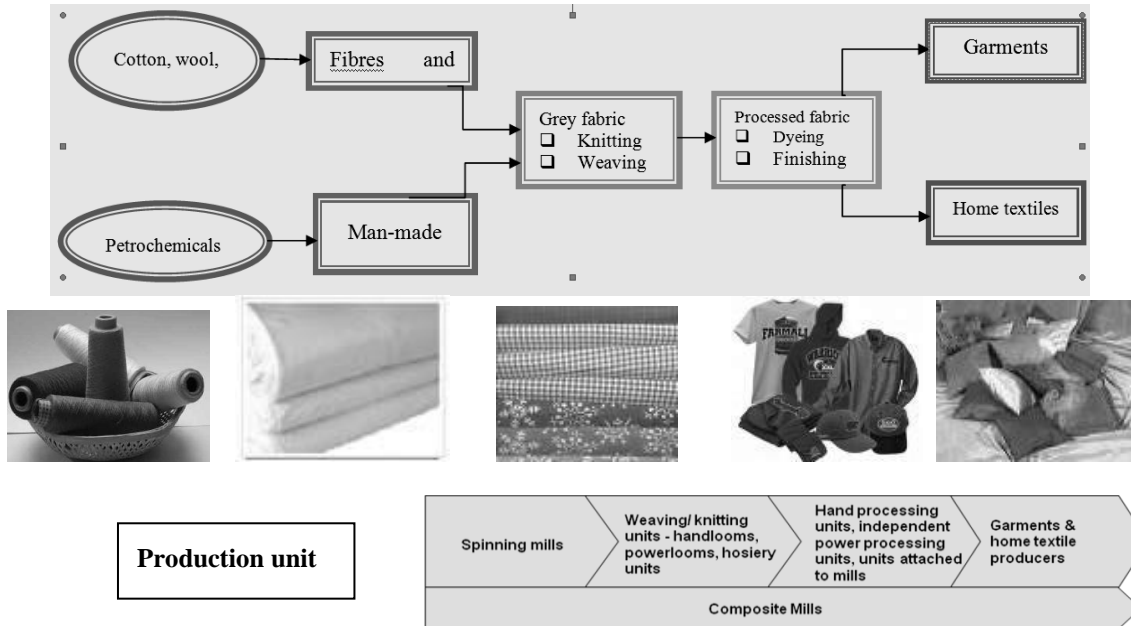
Now, if an analysis is made, it is apt to say that the problems which textile industry are facing are:

a. Use of outdated manufacturing technology,
b. Huge unorganised and decentralised sector,
c. Low energy efficient machine and technology,
d. Negligence in providing social security to their employees,
e. High production cost,
f. Import of cheap textile from other country,
g. Poor supply chain management,
h. Irresponsible behaviour toward environmental sustainability.

Indian textile industry: The textiles sector includes the organized Cotton and Man-Made Fibre Textiles Mills. The Man-Made Fibre and Filament Yarn Industry, the Wool and Woollen Textiles, the Sericulture and Silk Textiles, Powerlooms, Handlooms, Handicrafts, the Jute and Jute Textiles, and Apparel & Garments and textile are also the part of Indian Textile Industry. The following are also the part of this industry:

1. Spinning and weaving,
2. Knitting and Hosiery,
3. Garmenting,
4. Processing dyeing and finishing,
5. Instrumentation and IT,
6. Auxiliaries.

3. MANUFACTURING UNITS PRESENT AT ALL LEVELS OF VALUE CHAIN

4. STEPS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY HELPFUL TO THIS INDUSTRY
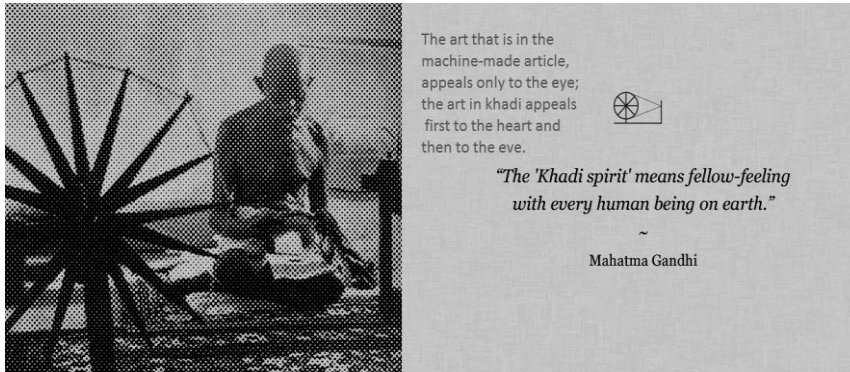
In spite of the fact that efforts of Government are creditable, under the revamped Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, the government has introduced a smart card for the workers in the unorganised sector seeded with details of two more social security schemes.

- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana - which it offers, Accidental death and disability cover of Rs 2 lakh.
- Atal pension Yojana - which it offers, Pension between Rs 1,000 and Rs 5,000 a month.
- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana - which it offers, a pure protection term insurance cover which pays Rs 2 lakh to dependents in the event of the policyholder's death.

But, still the position remains alarming and resulting in strike and employees' dissatisfaction, several textile mills are closed, unemployment and unhealthy condition of employees and their families, degradation of environment and heavily increasing pollution. At present, the Modi's Government recently launched the "Start up" and "Make in India" programme also supported by Gandhi's Khadi movement to achieve the higher economic growth, but Gandhi did not satisfied with this exclusive Economic Growth rate, he wants inclusive growth rate without sacrificing the welfare of society and workers.

5. CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION

Gandhi's khadi and textile campaign was a people's movement, in the support of that the following lines were hummed by people on a large scale and it underlines the importance of khadi & textile economics.

The art that is in the machine-made article, appeals only to the eye; the art in khadi appeals first to the heart and then to the eye.

"The 'Khadi spirit' means fellow-feeling with every human being on earth."

~
Mahatma Gandhi

"*Gandhi ki takliya nacche,*
 Ghar ghar chale charkha.
Hamare chule par hamara bhaat,
 Hamare tave par hamari roti,
Hamare charkha par hamara kapda!"

The objective of Gandhi's Khadi movement was to make people self-empowered and independent and prosperous. During the British Rule, the exploitation of workers was going on which results in the violation of human rights. And even in the present scenario, circumstances are somewhat same due to the discriminatory thinking of capitalistic society. To support the

Gandhi's Khadi movement, the present government has implemented CSR for the welfare of workers and society but still the major part of textile industry i.e. unorganized sector is exploiting the workers which in turn infringed the human rights of workers and violate the Article 14, 21 and Article 23 of the Constitution of India. So, the government should implement the laws on ground reality, instead of paper, to reserve the rights of workers and to cover these unorganised sector in such a way that the basic structure of the Constitution of India should not be violated so that dreams of Gandhi with reference to Khadi can be fulfilled. In view of the miserable conditions of these workers, it is the duty of the Government to take immediate remedial measures. Therefore, seeks to establish an Authority to be known as the Textile Mills Workers Welfare Authority.

> *"Textile Workers weave not just cloth;*
> *But through the harmonious nature of their workplace,*
> *They also weave the fabric of a cohesive, harmonious society"*

REFERENCES

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

[1]. Confederation of Indian textile Industry Report.

[2]. Field survey of micro textile unit of Meerut (Partapur Division).

[3]. Field survey of Modi Textile and Weaving mills and CSR they adopted.

[4]. Field survey of textile mills of Meerut and Ghaziabad (Western-U.P.).

[5]. NSSO Survey Report.

[6]. Official report published on the subject by Indian textile Journal.

WEBSITES

[1]. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/evolution_of_corporate_social responsibility_in_india

[2]. http://article fibre2fashion.com

[3]. http:// www.arvindmills.com

[4]. www.indiantextilejournal.com

[5]. www.welspun.com

[6]. www.mkgandhi.org/articles/economics-of-khadi.html

ACT REFERENCES

[1]. Article 51(A), Article 21 and Article 23 of the constitution of the India.

[2]. Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, Minimum wages Act, 1948.

[3]. Environmental Protection Act, 1986.

[4]. Factories Act (1948) ESI Act, workmen compensation Act, 1923.

[5]. New Company Act, 2013 Amended.