PROCESSING CLUSTER TARAPUR

Tarapur is a processing cluster, which has been developed by State Govt. to ease congestion at Mumbai and to take care of unemployed workers of sick mills of Mumbai. Processing units at Tarapur have also come up to take care of processing needs of powerloom fabric produced there. The genesis of development of Tarapur processing cluster is the same as that of Badlapur, Dombivli and Bhiwandi but Tarapur is far ahead in terms of technology of machines installed in its processing units. While hand processing activities in its' motorised form are still available at other 3 clusters it is rare at Tarapur. In other words almost all units at Tarapur have better technology indigenous as well as imported power processing machines, while at Badlapur, Bhiwandi and Dombivli it is mixed technology from primitive to moderate. High tech. processing units are absent in all these clusters except the unit of Balkrishna (Siyaram group of industries) at Tarapur, which is fairly modern.

1. Introduction :

Tarapur is known in the country for its Atomic power Station set up by Govt. of India. A research centre for recycling of Uranium, the ultimate fuel for the nuclear power plant under Bhaba Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is a well known set up at Tarapur. It is also a textile cluster developed by Govt. of Maharashtra to ease pressure on overcrowded Mumbai and to absorb the migrated workers of sick mills. It is developed as another powerloom hub with most modern as well as discarded looms of mills in Mumbai and Ahmedabad. Proximity with Vapi, Silvasa and Daman is

advantageous for easy availability of texturised yarn and dyed yarn for weaving on powerlooms. Another advantage is its proximity with the major textile trade centre, Mumbai.

2. Location :

Tarapur is situated on the coastal line of Maharashtra in Thane district. It is about 90 kms from Mumbai and is well connected by road through Western express highway and by rail link through Western railway on Mumbai – Ahmedabad track. The nearest railway station is Boisar.

TARAPUR LOCATION MAP

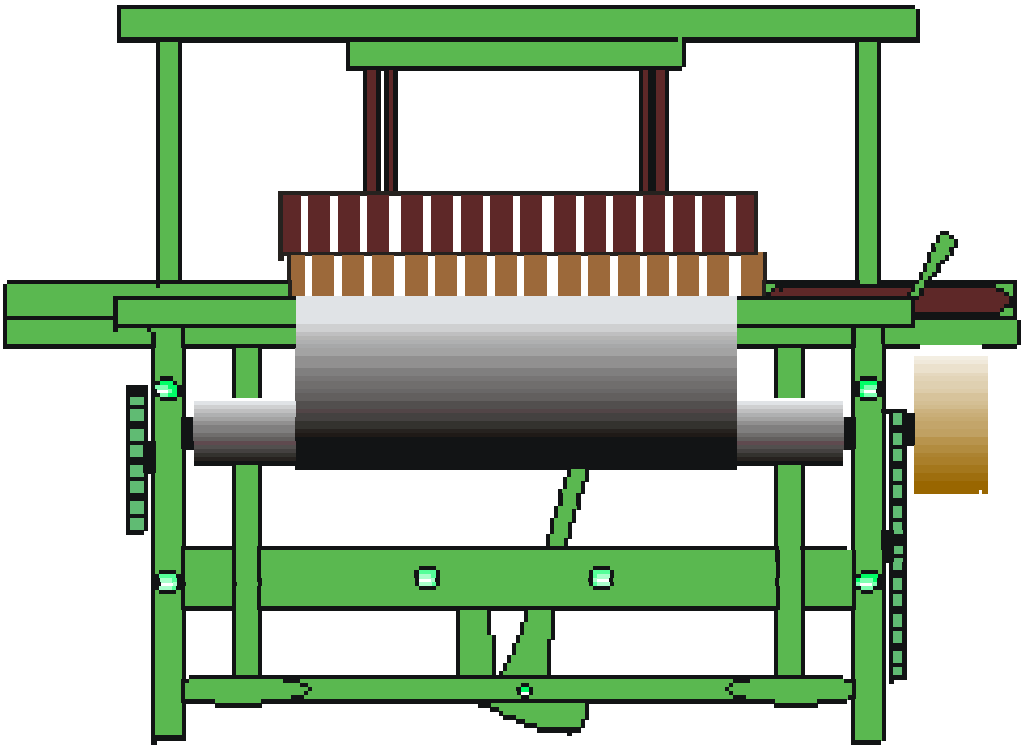
3. Product and Industrial profile :

Tarapur has got well-developed infrastructure facilities created by Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC). MIDC estate of Tarapur houses industrial units of various sizes, from small to large scale level.

Textile industry in Tarapur has come up during the last two decades especially after the longest ever strike of Mumbai mills in 1982 and migration of unemployed workers of mills that fell sick due to such strike. This apart, Government of Maharashtra promoted industrial development in this area on the pattern of Badlapur, Dombivli and Navi Mumbai to ease congestion in Mumbai city. Govt. offered exemption in octroi and taxes to build up these areas as industrial belt to boost the employment and economy.

Tarapur is a major powerloom hub having around 6500 powerlooms, out of which 6000 are high tech shuttleless looms (Rapier, Projectile, Waterjet and Airjet). Rest are fully automatic, either Cimmco, Ruti 'C', Ruti 'B' or ordinary looms. Fabric produced on these looms is Industrial fabrics, Home Textile & furnishing, blended Suiting and shirting from grey, yarn dyed or top dyed yarns. Knitting and Embroidery units also have their presence in Tarapur . Like Bhiwandi, Processing units in Tarapur have also come up to meet processing requirement of powerloom fabric produced there.

POWERLOOM– LINE DIAGRAM



Traders in Mumbai and other places find it easier to get the fabric produced on powerlooms at Tarapur and processed there itself, saving on transportation cost and other overheads. No. of processing units at Tarapur are as under :-

No. of Power Processing Units	Volume of cloth produced annually
15	165 Million Metres

Processing capacity of a processing unit varies from 8 to 24 Million metres per annum. By and large shirting and suiting fabric is produced, while 2 – 3 units process knit goods also. Processing activities involve bleaching and dyeing. Printing activity at Tarapur is very limited. Majority of processing units, whether SSI or non-SSI are

located at MIDC industrial area. The job charges per metre for shirting fabric varies from Rs.3 to 10/- and that for Suiting from Rs.6 to 25/-. Majority of the units perform job work for merchants, traders, garment manufacturers and merchant exporters and job charges depend on quality and finishing requirement of clients.

4. Technology level :

Technology level of power processing units at Tarapur is moderate to high tech. Machines installed are indigenous as well as imported from the manufacturers like Harish, Swastik, SM, Calico, Shakti, Dalal, Dev-Rekha, Gayatri, Hitesh, Texprint & Kusters, Oshtoph, Monforts, Biella, Klin Wasser ,KDA ,TMT etc. Locally fabricated machines are also installed to take care of cheap processing requirement. Machines like Singeing, Shearing & Cropping, Kier decatising, Rotary or Paper Press, Raising, Peaching, Zero-zero, Shreigner, Calendering, Embossing are installed for quality effects.

Since the units are located in MIDC area, infrastructure is well developed with the arrangement of water supply, power, telecommunication, banks, roads, transportation and drainage facility. Being near to Mumbai, most of the units have got their registered offices at Mumbai or it's suburbs and carry out accounting, financial and marketing activities there itself.

CALENDER MACHINE

SHEARING MACHINE

5. Environmental responsiveness :

Environmental responsiveness is poor. Units have their own effluent treatment plants of primary / secondary level but they are not working efficiently. Further since traders squeeze them in job charges to a greater extent, they don't have enough resources to pay attention on such activity. There is a small CETP, which is not able to meet the requirement of the industry. Another CETP is under construction.

6. Problems and Suggestions :

i) Tarapur processing cluster is better in comparison to Bhiwandi, Dombivli and Badlapur when the overall picture is seen. This is probably due to the fact that it has developed of late and hand processing culture is almost missing as well as locally fabricated primitive technology machines are scant. However the job work practice is an impediment. Middlemen are there in picture at Tarapur also and job charges are squeezed. As a result quality suffers and quality control culture is almost missing. There is no testing of dyes and chemicals and the assurance given by the supplier only works as a guideline. Quality control management system like ISO-9000 etc. are introduced only in few units. An awareness for quality, for survival is must.

ii) Even though the cluster is better placed than Dombivli, Bhiwandi and Badlapur, there is a lack of technically qualified shop floor and professional managers. Trained and skilled workers are on the least priority

list. All this is due to the job charge culture and squeezing of job charges, limits investment on human resource capital. An awareness is required to be created that investment on employing technically qualified personnels, skilled workers and training would ultimately pay in terms of quality, productivity, energy saving, cost cutting and better image of the company.

iii) Though the technology level of the cluster as a whole is fairly moderate and better than Badlapur, Dombivli and Bhiwandi, advanced technology machines are few. Large sized plants are few. A feeling is required to be created among the entrepreneurs to go in for large sized plants with mixed set up of batch wise and continuous processing to serve the small lot and longer length processing requirement of garment sector. Large processing units with state-of-the-art machines save tremendously on dyes, chemicals, energy, wastage, effluent treatment cost, manpower and other overheads and pay back within short time. Capital subsidy scheme and interest subsidy provision under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme of Govt. of India, the best available financial cushion, should be availed for modernisation.

iv) Processing units should install at least bare minimum quality testing equipments and effluent parameters testing equipments, in-house and should inculcate quality and environmental culture in their workforce.

v) Quick gain attitude hampers pro-active approach and global perspective.

vi) Contract labour system is an impediment in manpower development since a worker may not get opportunity to work on a particular job regularly to perfect himself in that job. This impairs quality and productivity.

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i) Visit of Tarapur and report prepared by Regional Office of the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai.

ii) Input from Shri K. K. Sharma, an eminent expert in textile processing.