

BADLAPUR PROCESSING CLUSTER

Badlapur is a processing cluster in Maharashtra which has come up near Mumbai due to sickness of Mills, rocking real estate prices and a large market for textile trade in Mumbai. In fact Bhiwandi, Dombivli and Badlapur complement and supplement each other for processed goods requirement of Mumbai textile markets. Readers may find many similarities in three clusters. Differentiation among the three is that Dombivli has got small, medium and large units from primitive to moderate technology and also meets major requirement of bleached goods for printing industry of Pali, Balotra, Jodhpur and Jetpur etc. Bhiwandi also meets a significant bleaching requirement of above printing clusters. The advantage of Bhiwandi is that it is major sourcing hub for powerloom fabrics and requirement of processing can also be met locally with the advantage of saving in transportation cost. Bhiwandi also processes Polyester and its' blends in hand processing units. At Badlapur small and medium sized processing units are there and cluster is smaller than other two. A brief of Badlapur cluster is given hereinbelow :-

- **Location :**

Badlapur is located about 65 kms from Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) railway station on Central suburb. Processing units at Badlapur are scattered in about 4 sq kilo metres, east of Badlapur in MIDC area.

2. Industrial profile :

Infrastructure at Badlapur is better since it is covered under MIDC plan. Being a Mumbai suburb in the adjoining Thane district, it has got advantage of proximity with major textile market of Mumbai and it's traders. Getting job work through such traders,

executing it and delivering it with less transportation cost and time puts processing units of Badlapur at great advantage as compared to units at far of places. Being away from Mumbai city, it is comparatively cheaper in cost of living, real estate prices and cost of labours that can be sourced from nearby villages. Support industries, dyes and chemicals units at Badlapur or nearby, makes it easier for processing units to source their various requirements at their doorstep. Sourcing of qualified, trained, skilled and professional manpower, machines and equipments from Mumbai and its nearby suburbs is easier. As a result of these advantages, the processing cluster has developed and grown in this area. Number of processing units and their capacity is given below :-

S.No.	Type of units	No. of units	Annual capacity in Mn metres
1.	Power processing	10	36
2.	Units having hand processing and locally fabricated electrically operated primitive technology machines	20	30
	Total	30	66

3. Product profile :

Badlapur is known for processing of both cotton, synthetics and blends. Product mix is similar to Dombivli. Power processing units at Badlapur are from low to medium technology, small scale and medium scale size. Most of the units at Badlapur have indigenous machines with few machines of high technology from foreign manufacturers. Processing of cotton, polyester and it's blends is carried out for shirting, suiting, dress material and made ups. Majority of the units are working on job work with job charges

ranging from 50 paise to Rs.3/- per meter in hand processing and Rs.2/- to Rs.20/- per meter in power processing. There is unfair and unhealthy competition in job charges at the cost of quality. Management is always under pressure from the middlemen to reduce job charges beyond an acceptable level and as a result of this, being uneconomic many units are closing down. In such uneconomic situation, the industry is not able to pay attention on quality of inputs and manpower. It is difficult to afford highly paid technically qualified, trained and skilled personnels to handle various jobs. Absence of such quality inputs results in the wastages, impairs the quality and productivity and makes the running of affairs of the factory further uneconomic. Various product mix are :-

1. 100% Cotton and Poly-Viscose Shirting
2. 100% Cotton and Polyester dress material
3. 100% Cotton and blended suiting
4. 100% Cotton mulmul and sarees
5. 100% Cotton Sheeting

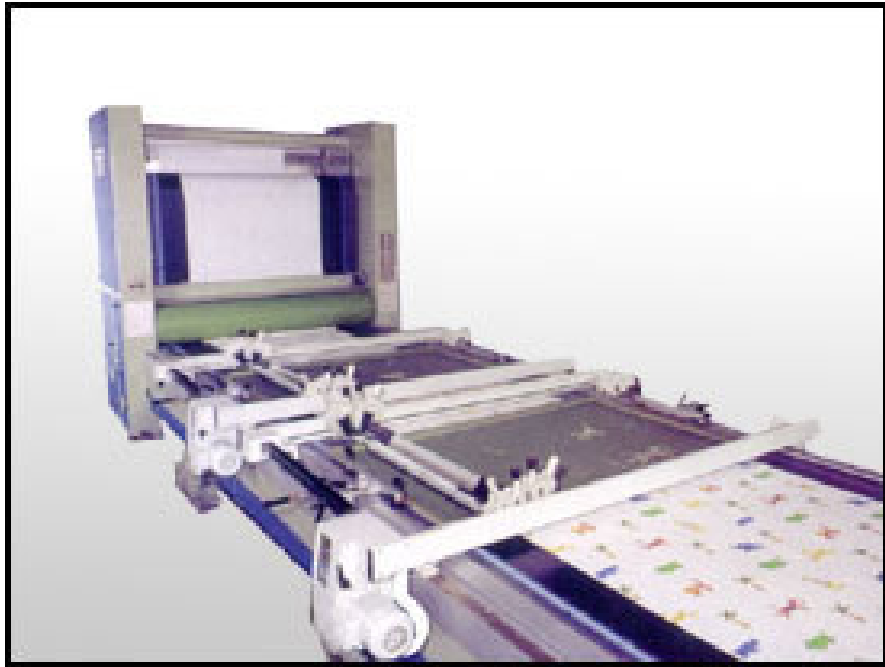
SUITINGS



4. Technology level :

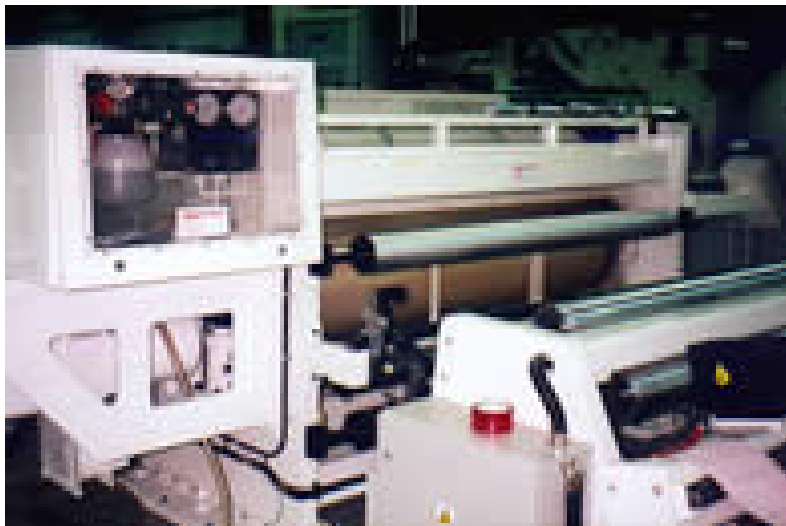
In hand processing units, scouring is carried out by soaking overnight in caustic soda followed by washing in cemented tanks or Jiggers, the next day. Bleaching is done by bleaching powder or bleach liquor in cemented tanks followed by souring and washing in cemented tanks itself. Some units have also installed hand / motor operated winches and wooden washing machines for washing. Dyeing and washing is carried out in locally fabricated low technology jiggers. Wherever mercerising is required on cotton before dyeing, the fabric is just passed through caustic solution on a locally fabricated so called mercerising machines having no control on tension and other parameters. Finishing (starch or softners) is done through padding mangles, followed by drying on open or closed stenters. The machines were earlier run by manual or animal power but after rationalisation of excise duty in 2004 - 05, units have fitted electrically operated motors to run the machines. Heating is done through firewood, coal or husk. This again impairs the quality with carbon stains on the fabrics. Most of the machines are made of iron, the parts get rusted and form iron specks on the dyed fabric. Printing is done on cold and hot printing tables followed by sun fixation / silicate padding, washing in cemented tanks and finishing on stenters. In power processing, majority of units still depend on jiggers while some have installed jet dyeing and soft flow dyeing machines, depending on requirement. Semi automatic and automatic flat bed printing machines and Rotary printing machines are used for printing.

FULLY AUTOMATATIC HYDRAULICALLY OPERATED FLAT BED SCREEN PRINTING MACHINE - MODEL "HYDRATEX"



Drying is done through drying range and stenters. Bleaching is done on jiggers and mercerising on mercerising machines. For washing and soaping, open width washers / print soapers are installed. The units in power processing sector have installed decatizing, kier decatizing, calendering, pre-shrinking, polymerisers, closed stenters, shreigners, embossing, loop agers, steamers etc.

EMBOSSING MACHINE



MULTI LAYER DRYING STENTER



Units are capable of imparting various type of finishes, depending on end use requirement. Heating is carried out by steam, electrical means and heated oil, for uniform temperature gradient throughout. However open width continuous processing plants and large sized plants are absent in power processing sector of Badlapur. Majority of the units have old and outdated machines resulting in poor quality, less productivity and uneconomical processing.

6. Problems and suggestions :

- i) Main problem is of middlemen who squeeze the processors, negotiate for lower job charges and in the quest of capturing order, the processors yield to lower uneconomical job charges. In the process, to keep the unit running, they cut on inputs, process time, processing steps and quality of dyes and chemicals, at the cost of

quality of processing. This works as impediments to growth of the sector, units and quality culture. A quality culture is required to be developed and lobby of middlemen is required to be done away with. A strong feeling is required to be developed among the processors that if there is quality, people will come to pay for it and in the long run quality units will only survive.

- ii) Old outdated and obsolete machines increase the wastage, reduce productivity, impair quality, entail more breakdowns and hence are uneconomical. Replacement with better quality machines increases the profit margin and pays back within short time. Being uneconomical, many units are closing down. Modernisation and replacement of old / obsolete machines with new ones may reverse the trend.
- iii) Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme of Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles offers interest subsidy on credits on listed better technology machines and credit linked capital subsidy with interest subsidy on specified high-tech processing machines. Processors should take advantage of this scheme to upgrade their units appropriately depending on their product mix and buyers' requirement.
- iv) Environmental responsiveness and quality is very important for survival. Some buyers place orders only after judging the environmental responsiveness of a company. Effluent Treatment Plants or membership of a Common Effluent Treatment Plant alongwith minimal environmental testing equipments are effective tools to ensure environmental commitment of a company. Essential quality testing equipments and testing of products from dignified testing laboratories are necessary to observe quality control in the unit. ISO-9000 quality management and ISO-14000

environmental management systems are effective management tools for quality of product and environment.

- v) In processing, quality of manpower matters since the activity is high risk, requiring quality machines, dyes, chemicals and qualified, trained, skilled manpower. Efforts should be to take qualified and skilled technicians to man the shopfloor. Continuous attention is required to be paid for training of manpower and employment of skilled workers.
- vi) Quick gain attitude is required to be replaced with pro active approach to sustain in global perspective by upgrading quality and productivity.
- vii) Employment of skilled and trained workforce in place of contractual employment is in the interest of quality and productivity.

Prepared by Ram Asrey Lal, Dy Director (Chemical Processing),
under the guidance of the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai and
material based on :

- i) Survey of Badlapur and discussion with entrepreneurs / Association representatives
- ii) Report of Regional Office of the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai.
- iii) Input from Shri K. K. Sharma, an eminent processing expert in the area.

