

DOMBIVLI, THE PROCESSING CLUSTER FOR CHEAP FABRICS

Dombivli, in the State of Maharashtra is widely known among the small dyers, printers, khadi sector, handloom sector and textile corporations for meeting their requirement of small lot processing at reasonable rates. It is a centre which can execute processing jobs of a few hundred metres to lakhs of metres of fabric. It gets job order from far away places like Jetpur, Pali, Balotra and Jodhpur for bleaching to carry out printing there. Due to its proximity with major textile trade market Mumbai, it has developed capabilities to process varied quality fabrics on it's hand and power processing machines. It has become a destination to cater to various segment levels of textile market unlike other clusters which are typical to a specific segment. It processes cotton, viscose and blends in its various hand and power processing units set up in Govt. developed industrial area. Brief details about this sector follows :

1. Location :

Dombivli is a cluster in Maharashtra, which has come up due to its proximity with Mumbai and to fill up the gap created by closure of Mumbai mills. It is a major source for bleaching of cotton goods for carrying out dyeing and printing at other major clusters of cheaper fabrics viz. Pali - Marwar, Jodhpur, Jetpur, Balotra etc.

Dombivli is a central suburb of Mumbai, about 50 kms from Chhatrapati Shivaji railway terminus. The processing

LOCATION OF DOMBIVILI



units at Dombivli are scattered in around 9 square kms industrial area.

2. Industrial profile :

Infrastructure facilities at Dombivli are better than Bhiwandi but inferior to Tarapur. It has got a well developed industrial area, infrastructure with roads, drainage, power supply, industrial plots and sheds developed by Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC). Rail and road linkage with Mumbai on one side and proximity with rural areas on the other for availability of cheap labour, availability of skilled and trained technical and managerial manpower from nearby

Mumbai and it's suburbs, easy access to Mumbai and it's suburbs for sourcing raw material, dyes, chemicals, carrying out government formalities, sourcing trouble shooting professionals and consultants etc., are a few among various reasons to spur growth of textile processing activity at Dombivli. Land cost, booming real estate market, high cost of labour and overheads, public and government's concern for quality of environment within the periphery of Mumbai city etc have resulted in setting up of processing units of small, medium and large size at Dombivli, by the entrepreneurs living in Mumbai and it's suburbs. Traders in Mumbai find it easy to source their requirement of dyed, printed and processed goods from Dombivli with added cost advantage. Sourcing such requirements from distant clusters away from Mumbai is not as easy, since it would involve movement to longer destinations, wastage of time and energy, expenses on movement of self, professionals, goods and services and difficulty in monitoring of production, quality, delivery and various other factors. Mumbai is a major centre for trade in textiles and this factor has helped the textile processing industry to flourish in nearby areas such as Bhiwandi, Badlapur, Tarapur, Navi Mumbai etc.

The textile processing activity had started picking up at Dombivli during the decade of 1960 -70 itself but major processing activities then were based on hand processing operations. Hand processing activities were at greater advantage over power processing units till 2004 - 05 when all segments of processing whether hand or power were brought at par, opening level playing field for all, in terms of payment of excise duty. Closure of mills in Mumbai after the longest ever strike in 1982 and increased

overheads for surviving mills in Mumbai had already increased the pressure on Dombivli processing units for processing of quality goods. This resulted in setting up of power processing units of better level of technology to meet the requirement of better quality processed goods. Hand processing units, after rationalisation of excise duty and in a quest to meet the ever increasing quality requirement of higher level of market than what was being served by them so far, upgraded their machines from manually operated system to electrically operated system. Some of the erstwhile hand processing units also installed power operated machines of medium technology manufactured by reputed manufacturers. As a result, Dombivli has turned from a cluster of hand processing units to a cluster of mixed culture i.e. hand and power processing units of various technology, meeting the processing needs of powerloom industry of Bhiwandi and nearby areas and bleached fabrics requirement of a few decentralised dyeing and printing clusters mentioned earlier. Number of textile processing units at Dombivli are as under :-

Type of units	Number of units	Annual capacity in million metres
Power processing	20	60
Units having hand / electrically operated	30	60

primitive technology machines		
Total	50	120

3. Product profile :

Hand processing units of Dombivli are meeting the bleaching requirement of decentralised processing clusters that are producing cheap cost dyed and / or printed 100% cotton sarees, blouses, petticoat and dress material. Shearing & Cropping, Singeing, desizing, scouring, bleaching, dyeing, printing and functional finishing is done on cotton. Polyester, viscose and it's blends are processed in power processing units of Dombivli.

JET DYEING MACHINES - FOR POLYESTER AND BLENDS



Dyeing on locally fabricated hand and motor operated jiggers and printing on screen printing tables is carried out in hand processing units. For improving lusture and dye uptake, causticisation is done on jiggers or locally fabricated mercerizing machines. Specifications of the products are :

S. No.	Product	Nature of fibres	Width	Price range
1.	Bleached sarees	100% cotton	117 cms	Rs.15 - 17 per meter
2.	Bleached mulmul	100% cotton	117 cms	Rs.10 - 15 per meter
3.	Bleached shirting	Polyester x viscose Polyester x cotton of various blends (%ge)	89 cms to 147 cms	Rs.12 - 45 per meter
4.	Polyester shirting	100% polyester Filament x Filament	89 cms to 147 cms	Rs.10 - 40 per meter
5.	Suiting	Polyester x viscose Polyester x cotton of various blends & 100% Polyester & 100% Cotton	150 cms 137 cms	Rs.30- 110 per meter
6.	Shirting	48 x 52 Poly/Viscose & other blends	89 cms to 147cm	Rs.15 - 60 per meter
7.	Shirting	100% cotton	89 cms to 147cm	Rs.18 - 70/- per meter

8.	Dress material	100% cotton 65 x 35 Poly/Viscose	120 cms	Rs.18 - 50/- per meter
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Job charges range from 50 paise to Rs.1-30 per meter for bleaching, Re 1.00 to 2.00 for dyeing and Re 2 to 3.50 per meter for screen printing in hand processing units. The job charges for various processes in power processing units vary from Rs.2 to 20 per meter.

4. Suggestions for improvement :

Problems at Dombivli are almost similar to Bhiwandi or other decentralised sectors. Some of these are :

- i) Need of appropriate technology upgradation through Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) of Govt. of India in hand processing segment viz. conversion of cold tables to hot, installation of appropriate technology mercerising machines, pressure kiers for scouring, closed stenters etc. Installation of energy saving, less water consuming, productive, high efficiency machines in power processing units.
- ii) Engagement of trained and skilled manpower. Intermittent training for in-service personnels in scientific knowledge of dyes, chemicals, processes and machines. Professional input in management.
- iii) Creation of work and quality culture. Introduction of quality and environmental management systems, health and safety standards

etc. Installation of minimal quality control / testing equipments. Product testing in scientific testing institutions for quality control.

- iv) Doing away with the middlemen, for better margins, quality improvement and growth, use of quality inputs, dyes, chemicals, raw material etc for better quality processing at appropriate processing charges.
- v) Value addition and product diversification to move into premium segment market.
- vi) Regular workers for perfection in job to achieve quality and productivity.
- vii) Change of attitude from quick gain to pro-active approach with global perspective.
- viii) Environmental responsiveness through setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP).

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

- i) Visit to the cluster and discussion with Industry's 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.

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