

TEXTILE PROCESSING CLUSTER – SIRCILLA (A.P.)

Sircilla in Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh has many household dyeing units. These units are mainly processing 100% cotton casement fabric for inner-wears, petticoats. It is a major powerloom cluster in Andhra Pradesh, producing polyester fabric and cotton casement fabric. Cotton casement is processed at Sircilla while polyester fabric is sent to Hyderabad for further processing. The cluster is producing cheaper varieties. Technology and machines used in dyeing are age old Jiggers, manufactured locally. About 150 dyeing units are under operation with around 400 Jiggers in total, the average size of individual units being 2-4 Jiggers. Size is very small, there are many limitations and quality is poor. A lot is required to be done for survival of dyeing activity at Sircilla. A brief about this cluster follows:

1. Location:

Sircilla in Andhra Pradesh is known as Mini Solapur which is known for its terry towel and bed sheet manufacturing. Sircilla is situated in a naxal affected Karimnagar district and is about 140 Kms. from Hyderabad. With the population of around 1 Lakh, the major activities here are powerloom weaving and processing. Other major activity is agriculture. The town houses small processing units with locally fabricated machines of outdated technology.

2. Industrial Profile:

Sircilla houses around 150 dyeing units with 400 Jiggers to process cotton casement fabrics manufactured on powerlooms at Sircilla. Each unit comprises on an average of 2-4 Jiggers. Most of the units are undertaking job work.

There is a Textile Park at Sircilla, set up under Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) of Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles. Some of good units have been set up in this park with hi-tech shuttleless looms. One entrepreneur from Solapur is working on setting up a good textile processing unit in this park to

take care of processing requirement of fabric produced on the looms set up in this park.

3. Product Profile:

Sircilla is a hub of powerlooms in Andhra Pradesh. Majority of looms are engaged on production of 100% polyester fabric, while other are producing cotton fabric. Main product is low cost 100% cotton casement fabric for inner-wear / petticoats. Polyester is for use as dress material and shirtings. Cotton casement is dyed in local dyeing units and polyester fabric is sent to Hyderabad for processing. Main varieties of fabric produced at Sircilla are as under:

a) 100% Cotton Casement Cloth :

The cotton casement cloth is one of the major varieties of fabric produced in the Cluster. This fabric is with variety of weaves and textures, commonly used for casual purpose. The type of the yarn used for this variety is 100% cotton Yarn. The weave design used for this fabric is Plain, Twill etc. in plain / semi automatic powerlooms. The following are the fabric particulars manufactured in the cluster.

Warp count : 25's to 30's

Weft Count : 20's to 34's

Ends per Inch : 42 to 76.

Picks per Inch : 44 to 70.

Width : 38" to 60".

It may be seen from the above fabric particulars that the coarse counts are used for both warp and weft. It may also be seen from the construction particulars that the lower or higher quality of fabric is produced as per requirement of the customers.

b) 100% Polyester Dress Material / Shirting :

100% Polyester fabric is one of the major products manufactured in this cluster. Polyester filament yarn in folded and twisted are used for the manufacture of

100% Polyester fabric. After dyeing / printing the fabric is mainly used for the dress material for ladies and children / gents.

The following details are the fabric particulars manufactured in the cluster.

Warp count : 80 D
Weft count : 80 D
Ends per Inch : 76 to 80
Picks per Inch : 60 to 66
Width : 38" to 49"

For processing of these fabrics are sent to Hyderabad processing units. After processing and packing the fabrics are sold in the local markets in the region of Hyderabad, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

c) 100% Polyester Suiting :

The other variety of the product is 100% Polyester Suiting. In this variety also 100% Polyester filament folded and twisted yarn are used for the production of suiting. But the fabric parameters are varying from the 100% Polyester dress material / shirting/ suiting.

The following are the fabric particulars manufactured in the cluster.

Warp Count : 300 D
Weft Count : 300 D
Ends per Inch : 40
Picks per Inch : 46
Width : 66" to 68".

Processing of these varieties is done on locally manufactured Jiggers, operated with ½ H.P. Motor. Water scenario is poor and bore-well water is used. Ground water level is decreasing. Availability of water is better in Santhi Nagar area in Sircilla and hence most of the dyeing units are coming up in that area. There is no proposal from any quarter to augment water supply suitable to the industry. Job work charges range from Rs.2-3 per meter. Cloth produced on powerloom is dyed in the cluster and sent to Hyderabad, Maharashtra and Karnataka for sale. The selling price is ranging from Rs.12-18 per meter. The annual value of the product processed in this cluster is around Rs.30 Crore.

Most of the dyeing units are procuring the requirement of dyes and chemicals from local agents. Dyes / Chemicals from Atul, Indokem, Pentachem International, Mafatlal Dyes and Chemicals are used in the cluster.

4. Environmental Responsiveness:

The dyeing units are mostly household type. Crude methods are used and effluents discharged are hazardous in nature. There is virtually no treatment of effluents. This is affecting the quality of ground and surface water at Sircilla. Tiny size of the units does not permit the setting up of effluent treatment plant by individual units. In fact, going by the size and technology involved, there is a very little that could be attempted to resolve the pollution problem, except of course carrying the effluent of individual units in tankers to a common place where such effluents can be treated in a common effluent treatment plant. Excess capacity of the common effluent treatment plant at Sircilla Textile Park could be utilized for this purpose. It would rather be better to upgrade the dyeing units of Sircilla to an appropriate size and with appropriate technology and shift them to Sicilla Textile Park or to another dedicated Textile Park, having all infrastructure facilities, including a common effluent treatment plant, to treat the dye house effluents before discharging the waste water within permissible emission limits or recycling treated water in various processes.

5. Support Systems:

- Sicilla cloth dyeing Producers Association at Yarn Market, Sircilla – 505 301, District: Karimnagar, Phone Nos.08723 - 232107, 232288, 232359, 232059, 232383, works for common interest of Sircilla Dyers.
- Powerloom Service Centre at Textile Park, Sircilla, under the State Govt. helps the industry in training and attending various technical problems.
- Powerloom Service Centre at DIC Campus, RTC 'X' Road, Musheerabad, Hyderabad – 500 020, Telefax: 040-27627885, under the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai, covers Sircilla jurisdiction to provide quality testing, troubleshooting, training and technical guidance to the industry at Sircilla.

- Regional Office of the Textile Commissioner at Shed No.7,8, VITC, Export Bhavan, 2nd Stage, Peenya Industrial Area, Bangalore – 560 068, Telefax: 080-28367439 / 28367539, covers Sircilla jurisdiction for implementation of the developmental schemes of Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles, viz. TUFS, 20% CLCS, Group workshed, Group Insurance Schemes for powerlooms, 10% Capital subsidy with 5% interest subsidy for specified processing machines, garments, technical textiles and Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP), etc.

6. Problems:

- Of late, labour problem is hitting the dyeing units at Sircilla. Workers find agriculture work more hygienic than dyes and chemicals stuffed dyeing activity. There is need to attend to the health hazards of working in dyeing units by providing to workers, protective clothing, gloves, gum boots, other such accessories and assistance to attract and retain them in these activities.
- Units are decades behind in technology. Technology upgradation with the input of technically trained manpower is must for survival. TUFS of the Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles, may help in this regard. It will be better to upgrade the units and shift them to Sircilla Textile Park or any dedicated park with appropriate infrastructure, CETP etc., to bring the dyeing activities of Sircilla in mainstream.
- Hazardous effluents generated by dyeing units are affecting the water quality, health of general public and workers. Individual units cannot afford an effluent treatment plant. A project could be undertaken to collect the dye house effluents from individual units and treat it at a common place in common effluent treatment plant at Sircilla Textile Park or elsewhere, recycle the treated water in the dyeing units or use it for greenery around.

Source: Material used in this coverage is based on the cluster profile prepared by Powerloom Service Centre, Hyderabad and Regional Office of the Textile Commissioner, Bangalore. The profile is given an appropriate shape by Shri.Ram Asrey Lal, Deputy Director (Chemical Processing), Office of the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai, under the instruction and guidance of Shri.J.N.Singh, I.A.S., Textile Commissioner, Mumbai.