PREFACE

Over the last few decades the cities of the 'Third World' are in the grip of a major crisis. The unprecedented growth in the urban population and especially the urban labour force the share of urban population is expected to rise from 27 per cent in 1970 to 43 per cent by the end of the century - as has had some damaging impact on the quality of life in these areas. One could, possibly, pin it down to the imbalance in demand and supply aspects of the urban manpower dynamics. This situation throws up some vital questions about urban employment position, a deteriorating environment, and imbalanced spacial development.

The substantial increase in urban population and thus the labour force, a higher proportion of it due to internal migration, is the result of the concentration of investment and income in the urban centres, notably the modern sector. Failure of the modern sector in absorbing the surplus labour due to its capital intensive nature in turn, forced the surplus labour to create jobs for themselves in the informal sector. An array of levels and terminologies have been coined and used to describe the activities of this sector. To some, they are parasitic and to others, they represent productive and a source for promoting growth and employment. Due to its nature, its potentiality and the range of interventions necessary to generate employment, equity and basic needs, this sector is gaining increasing importance in the debate of development issues.
In this perspective this study attempts to examine the characteristics of the manufacturing activities of this sector in terms of socio-economic aspects of those who are the active participants of the sector and its capacity to generate employment and income. Although the study is based on the empirical evidences of a single urban area 'Behrampur' and a single activity manufacturing, yet its findings are relevant in defining the growth of urban economics and the large-small issues in overall development strategy.

The study in its first chapter tries to analyse the present status of the informal-formal controversies and under this perspective tries to spell out its purpose and scope and chalkout a methodology for the empirical analysis.

In the second chapter the study shows the growth of the informal sector activities in Urban Orissa with the help of the available secondary data base and tried to analyse the growth trends of this sector in respect of various parameters.

The third chapter is totally devoted to the socio-economic profile of the entrepreneurs and their problems and future plans.

In the fourth chapter the study tries to analyse the socio-economic profile of the informal sector workers in comparison to the formal sector workers with respect to their past and present status as well as their future plans.
The fifth chapter is entirely devoted to the structure and the employment and income generating capability of the informal sector enterprises, and an attempt is made to show its productivity capability vis-a-vis the formal sector. An attempt is also made to find out the possible linkages between the two sectors.

The final chapter portrays various findings of the study and an attempt is made to chalk out certain policies and strategies for the overall development of this sector.

I am grateful to Professor M.K. Premi, my supervisor, for all the encouragement, help and freedom which he liberally gave me. I have found his suggestions and criticisms quite valuable and on the whole they have been helpful in putting my thesis in a better shape and order. I am also thankful to Professor A. Kundu, who was gracious enough to extend his help and co-operation at a time when I needed it most. I am indebted to Muralidharan and Shyamala but for whose sincere and untiring efforts my thesis would not have been completed in time. A special word of thanks to my friends who have provided timely help and emotional support. And finally, I am indebted to my parents, brothers and sister, for their love and affection.

Despite the good books and good counsel, the errors that still remain are entirely mine.

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