The study entitled “Role of Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Board in the Development of Khadi and Village Industries in Kerala” has been undertaken to analyze the role played by the Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Board in the development of village industries in the State of Kerala. The study focuses on identification of problems faced by village industries units and socio-economic conditions of artisans. It enquires into the schemes being implemented by the Board and their utilization by the units.

The study reveals that for procurement of raw materials, units still rely on intermediaries paying higher prices. Shortage of finance and lack of storage facilities result in small purchases leading to higher material procurement cost. There is hesitation on the part of artisans to make use of technological changes taking place in this sector and this results in low productivity and earnings. Formalities for bank loan are tough and there is too much delay between applying for bank loan and its sanctioning by banks.

Procurement of products by the marketing outlets of KKVIB is negligible and the units have to depend on middlemen for the sale of their goods. Sales are mostly on credit and delay in collection of sales proceeds causes working capital shortage. The socio-economic conditions of the artisans continue to be miserable and income from village industries is hardly sufficient for a reasonable standard of living.

The study also revealed that the Commission has evolved several schemes of assistance for Khadi and village industries and it implements them through the Boards in the respective States to help units boost production and productivity, upgradation of skills of artisans, product diversification, quality packaging and market development schemes like
conducting and participating in exhibitions both at national and international level. In addition to schemes applicable to all, there are special schemes designed and implemented for the development of different industries such as pottery, cottage etc. However, the study shows percentage utilization of these schemes by units as low indicating KKVIB has not succeeded in their widespread coverage.

**Key words:**