PREFACE

The impact of Globalization on the socio economic life of the people in the state cannot be denied, since there are many tremendous changes in the economic environment of international trade like development of Trans National Highway and India’s Look East Policy, where Manipur is going to be a business hub and gateway to the adjacent countries. But the state is still characterized by low per capita income, unemployment, low production, absence of industrial units, lack of transport and communication, worsening law and order situation etc., in spite of high literacy rate. Even the agricultural products in the state are not sufficient for the people, due to improper utilization of cultivable land.

The vision of Gandhi on a self reliant economy will be more appropriate and applicable in the state too. In his model of rural industrialization, the primeval emphasize were given on the development of industries based on locally available raw materials which are less capital intensive. On the other hand Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) are inseparable part in the economic development of the rural people. It is also a means to generate a large number of employments, equitable distribution of income and balance development.

KVI with its stunning simplicity and wholesome adaptability has occupied a unique position in the rural economy of the country by not only contributing substantially towards strengthening the economic base of the villages but also by effecting utilization of the vast natural resources untapped hitherto.

The development of village industries will be a revival of degrading Gandhian ideology in this modern age. It will be the awakening of true philosophy of no mass
production but production by the mass, while utilizing the artistic skills of the people especially women in the textile and handloom. Women weavers who are famous for their skill and intricate designing are from Wangkhei, Kongba, Khongman, Utlou etc. in respect of fine silk items. The rest of the villages of the State produced the remaining varieties of other fabrics. Tribal shawls are of all varieties of fabrics. Tribal shawls with exotic designs and motifs are the products of five hill districts of the State. Fabrics and Shawls of Manipur are in great demand in the national and international market.

Rural industries are primarily design to meet the need of the local population. Indigenous village industries and handicrafts are the most primitive form of production and the products are depend on the availability of natural resource to suit the taste and customs practiced in the socio economic life of the people.

The potentials of Agro Based, Food Processing and Forest Based industries still lying as underutilized while the market of textile products are confined mainly for the local or domestic customer, in spite of export potentials.

Rural industrialization is an environment friendly solution to the problems of unemployment, underemployment and poverty in state like Manipur. It can be used to engage the educated unemployed for production. KVIC is a statutory body establish for assisting and development of the artisans of KVI in the country.

But the role of KVIC is not pronounced as much as expected by the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises. Therefore it is also necessary to study the role of KVIC in generating employment opportunities in the state while analyzing the profile of the KVI entrepreneurs and artisans. The problems of the village industry due to lack of
interest by the educated youth and unattractive products as compared to the products of company at national and international level need to be refocused again for upliftment of the economy. KVI sector in the state has been a target of many factors like low marketable surplus, non-business approach, lack of training and knowledge of market, lack of transport and communication, non-availability of finance, poor marketing practices etc. which indeed led to a bane for sustained growth of these industries.