

CHAPTER XI
FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

In the present century the emergence of interest of the geographers, sociologists, urban planners etc. her in regional economic research work has been quietly undergoes a stable position in areal orientation.

The above discussion leads us to conclude that for the time being at least prime importance should be placed on a perspective approach involving a variety of measures, such as prohibition of new industries in certain areas, the siting government financial ventures. In other way will have to be made viable by providing the required infrastructure and suitable fiscal incentives to induce industrial investments to locate most advantageous regions.

The thesis entitled the industrial potentiality of Birbhum District of West Bengal, the author finds some empirical formula and exposition of several sets of methodology. The application and explanation shows that rural areas have high potentiality of industrial achieves in that area. Several socio-economic problems have been cropped up out of this unplanned, top-sided and haphazard changes.

In Birbhum district maximum number of workers are engaged in agro-based industries. But they want to need better

CHAPTER
FUTURE PROSPECT AND SUGGESTIONS

SUGGESTIONS :

Birbhum is one of the agriculturally leading districts of the State; but on the industrial front it has been declared as a backward one. With a free enterprise economy and 'left to itself' approach towards industrialization, the district has to some extent developed only in agro-industries. Among them again traditional rice mills pre-dominate. Modernising these is the cry of the day. This district which has considerable potential for developing a variety of industries, as outlined in the earlier chapters, is still to harness these advantages for the uplift of the economy. The key for the acceleration of industrial uses of agricultural resources and by-products, mineral resources and other industries based on resources and demand for generating a diversified industrial pattern with emphasis on agro and mineral resources. A lot of it remains untapped at present.

Industrial promotion is being attempted through a series of measures announced by various institutions to enthuse entrepreneurs to take to industrial activities. Prominent among these are subsidy on interest and power announced by the State Government in the past, concessional terms of financing patterns announced by the Industrial Development Bank of India and the Industrial Finance Corporation of India as well as the latest 16 point development programme announced by the State Government. These are given

in detail in appendices II and III. Entrepreneurs particularly from the backward districts should encash on them. It is heartening to recollect the new and fresh wave of enthusiasm and rethinking that is inspiring the people after the chain of untoward incidents during the last two years. Industrial peace has come to say.

The entrepreneurs contacted by the team in various parts of the district number 35. The interest they have shown in various lines indicates the foundation for speedy industrial growth. In addition to the entrepreneurs listed in Appendix I, the team has also learnt that a number of entrepreneurs have been approaching the District Industrial Officer, Suri, for guidance on ancillary industries that can be set up around Bolpur, to cater to the markets of the industrial complex of Durgapur - Asansol region which is close to Bolpur. The educational institutions like the Visva-Bharati University need to be involved in helping the young graduates coming out of the University to think of some self-employment programmes through industrial and other activities. The advantages that the district has need to be encashed for enthusing entrepreneurs particularly in the growth centres identified in Chapter VI .

Promotional measures

By local institutions

Industrialisation is the accomplishment of joint and coordinated effort of various institutions operating in their spheres of influence. Helping the entrepreneur to think of new ideas, sustaining his interest and enabling him to march forward to put his ideas into practice is the basic responsibilities of local institutions in the district. The district industrial officer, banks and many other institutions associated with the resource and infrastructure sectors play a part in this.

The district industrial officer with his field staff constitutes the corner stone for motivating entrepreneurs. Assessment and review potentialities of different areas, collection and dissemination of information on various industries have to be attempted by the District Industrial Officer. Developing a well equipped information centre in the District Industrial Officer's Office with special staff helps in maintaining contacts with entrepreneurs.

The District level Co-ordination Committee formed to increase the flow of credit to the small scale sector is an important development to assess the credit needs of industrialists and entrepreneurs so as to help them at the right time. Publicising the industrial opportunities through various forums, attracting entrepreneurs and helping the existing and prospective entrepreneurs to alleviate their problems is a significant mission for all the institutions

concerned with this activity including the leading associations.

Industrial area

A plot of land measuring 12 acres at Patelnagar has been acquired by the Development Department (Community Development), Government of West Bengal, for allotment to industries. The site has very good prospects for the Area Development Programme. Already some entrepreneurs have expressed their willingness to locate units like china clay washery and L.T. insulators as the raw materials are close by. It is important to allot them the land expeditiously for enthuising more people to come into that area. The district should plan to develop Sainthia - Patelnagar belt as an industrial zone in view of Sainthia being the nerve centre of commercial activity in the district and because of its rich resource hinterland.

Looking to the requirements of land for industrial purposes, 12 acres is very small. In first order growth centres like Sainthia and Bolpur it will be useful to earmark and develop certain areas for industrial use. If it can be acquired and allotted, the response appears to be quite promising.

Infrastructure and existing industries

Constructing an all weather bridge across the river Ajoy near Bhimgarh is a felt need of the industrialists of the district. This will open up a new vista for industrial development through direct contacts with Durgapur - Asansol belt for vehicular traffic as well as for tapping the potential for ancillary industries. At present, a temporary earthen bridge is constructed which operates in the fair-weather seasons.

Another pressing need is the supply of protected water to atleast the urban areas. At present, it is available only in Suri, the district headquarters, and Bolpur. The proposals for supply of protected water in Rampurhat and Sainthia which are on the anvil need to be expedited. The team felt the sanitary conditions in the hotels and restaurants all over the district to be deplorable and much needs to be done to improve them.

Rural electrification programme has reached very few centres. Supply of power on a priority basis has to be considered atleast in centres of industrial activity like Pachmi and Barapahari, where the stone crushing units are at present using diesel engines. In addition to power, the other problems facing the mining areas are accessibility through metalled roads, and the availability of railway wagons for movement

of stone chips. The stocks of stone chips have been accumulated because of shortage of railway wagons. Due attention needs to be given for providing these facilities to the mining establishments.

Marketing of Products :

There is no adequate arrangement for marketing of the handloom products at a remunerative price.

An attempt should be made to bring all the weavers under Co-operative fold.

All the loomless weavers should be organised into co-operative societies and they should be provided with looms and working capital.

Under RBI interest subsidy scheme, the Co-operative Bank can give loan to the weavers' Societies at a rate of interest lower than that of commercial banks. This interest subsidy scheme should be extended to commercial bank sector so that commercial banks can give loan to the weavers at a lower rate of interest. Handloom Department should take up the matter with R.B.I.

PROSPECTIVE INDUSTRIES

Industrial potential of a district arises from the potentialities emanating from different directions. As it essentially implies harnessing and husbanding of the potentialities and developments in each of the sectors of economy, it is related to the resource potential, demand prospects as well as skills and entrepreneurial talents that the district can mobilise in due course. Birbhum district which is rich in agriculture and mining activities has been studied from these aspects and the conclusions regarding the scope for starting various types of industrial units are given in this chapter. In respect of each industry, the raison d'etre for suggesting the industry in the district and the investment requirements for an economic size unit are furnished. To supplement the information in this chapter, a separate publication has been evolved outlining the profiles for each of the industries suggested for the district.

The industrial profiles cover information of the following type : prospect for the industry, locational characteristics, process of manufacture, capacity of the unit envisaged, machinery required, financial and technical requirements, and suppliers of machinery and equipment. This information can enable the entrepreneurs to pursue further after deciding on specific lines of manufacture.

The industries suggested are grouped under the following heads :

<u>Category</u>	<u>No. of industries suggested</u>
(A) Agro-Industries	5
(B) Mineral Based Industries	4
(C) Livestock Based & Input Industries	2
(D) Demand Based Industries	12
(E) Entrepreneurs' Interests	5
	28

1) Modernisation of Rice-Mills

Birbhum district is predominantly an agricultural district and it tops in paddy production. The resource has given rise to 67 rice mills in the district, besides a number of hulling mills. These mills are spread over the districts, only 12 mills are of modern type and the rest are to be modernised. In view of the inherent drawbacks, there is an urgent need to modernise these mills to get better recovery of rice and its by-products. It is understood from the local office of the Food Corporation of India that there is a proposal to modernise all the mills of the district by the end of 1973.

Modernisation of rice mills involves the modernisation of the following stages of operations.

1) Paddy cleaning, 2) Parboiling of paddy, 3) drying of paddy, 4) milling of paddy, and 5) storage.

Considering the idle capacity of rice mills in the district it is not all justified to set up new modernised mills. Modernisation of existing units would be more economical and feasible than starting new units.

Modernisation of an existing units of 2 mt/hour capacity (4,000 mt/year) may cost between Rs. 15 to 1.75 lakhs only, modernised 'milling' and between Rs. 2 to 2.5 lakhs considering modernised parboiling also. But estimate for setting up new unit of a similar capacity is Rs. 10 lakhs.

Parboiling of Paddy

The improved method of parboiling commands considerable advantages over the traditional technique. The period of parboiling can be reduced to 6/7 hours from 36 hours of traditional system. Due to the short period of soaking of paddy in warm weather no fermentation takes place and also no toxin can develop, and the bran from such parboiled paddy yields more oil than that from the old method. Rice milling capacity is increased considerably due to reduced time in parboiling process. Due to better touchness of rice, extra yield of rice upto 1% may be found improved parboiling.