

P R E F A C E

Small Scale Industries are assuming greater importance in the industrial structure of developing as well as developed countries. This sector seems to be the only practical solution for industrialisation of backward areas, as Nadia district in West Bengal is.

Although Nadia District has some glorious past of hand-loom weaving, clay modelling and sweet meat making, yet none of these have blossomed into a worth while industry. Nadia lags far behind the leading districts of West Bengal in the sphere of industrial activity. The raw material and power resources of the district is nil, unskilled vast labour is not at all industry-oriented.

The present study aims at critically examining the varied aspects of the potentiality of industrial activities in Nadia. The study consists of ten chapters.

In the first chapter, I have dealt with the location and physical background of the Nadia district, briefly relating the rivers, geology, soil, climate, flora and fauna of Nadia. In the second chapter I have critically examined the place of the district in the economy of the State of West Bengal, to understand the importance of this district in the State as a whole. The district holds a 4% share of the States economy in the fields of

population, working population, literacy, and cottage and small scale industrial sector. The only outstanding feature of Nadia in the whole state is the maximum presence of the weaving class here. I have devoted the third chapter, on the study of the various resources available in the district. Human resource is the most important of all other resources found here. Other resources found here are agricultural, and forest resources. I have made a study of the historical industrial activities in the district, which is more than two hundred years old, in the fourth chapter. This chapter deals with the importance of the availability of various infrastructural facilities such as power or electricity, roads and railways, marketing and storage, bank and finance, literacy and technical education, etc within the district and how they influence the growth of industries.

Each region has its own typical socio-economic characteristics that gives birth to a particular set of industries. I have therefore, devoted the fifth chapter to the study of the evolution of Industrial Activities in Nadia. This chapter covers a detailed account of the various industrial activities in the pre Independence era and also the new developments that took place in the post Independence era.

The Sixth chapter encompasses the study of the industrial structure of Nadia district. Here I have applied the techniques of different statistical method to show the degree of industrialisation in the district. Occupational structure, density of

Industrial Activity, degree of relationship between industrial and total employment, unevenness of Industrial Activity, identification of the share of local employment in relation to national employment, and correlation of household industry with other than household industry and also basic and non basic industry. Kalyani Industrial Estate was set up during the plan period to relieve Calcutta, and to decentralise the industries, to develop the backward district. Present picture of Kalyani has been studied here. Handloom weaving is the most important of all household industry in Nadia. Handloom plays an important role in Nadia's economy as this sector employs the maximum workers, generates a good portion of Nadia's income and has a fair share of the State's import. Ancilliary industry like bleaching, deying of yarns, calendering, sizing etc. also have developed here and offers a good scope for development here.

Nadia offers more scope for cottage and small scale industries based on agriculture and forest than large and medium scale industries based on minerals - which Nadia does'nt have. While studying forest based industries in Nadia, the important ones found are carpentry and saw mills, mat making, cane and bamboo basket making etc.

In the seventh chapter I have observed after studying the resources, infrastructure and the industrial structure of Nadia., that Nadia can hardly offer the necessary ingredients to set up new large and medium scale industry, her vast unskilled labour

will hardly get employment in such units. Also Nadia's backward economy can be developed only through proper, balanced growth of her Cottage and Small Scale sector, this is because only this sector can generate employment to the vast unskilled labour, can be set up with minimum capital and other infrastructural availability like raw material, power, management, etc. While studying this sphere of activities in Nadia I have found that this sector has considerably grown up in the last two decades, and helped to revive Nadia's economy to some extent.

Future planning for the development of the industries of Nadia must be taken into consideration. I have, therefore given an idea about the potentialities of industrial activities in Nadia. The Cottage and Small Scale sector plays an important part in producing income, employment and over all economic stability of this backward district. Thus a list of certain cottage and small scale industrial units and their possible locations within the district, has been made.

The ninth chapter deals with the problems that the industrial sector is facing. Beside the unavailability of raw materials, adequate infrastructure facilities the other problems that this sector is facing are sickness, managerial skill, finance market etc.

A balanced economic development of the district can be only possible when this sector of Cottage and Small Scale industry have developed fully utilising the available raw material,

infrastructure, human resource and market. As the most basically important this sector must be given priority in a scheme for development of this district. The tenth chapter is devoted in general with the possible few suggestions that can be made for the welfare of the district.

It is indeed a hard task to collect data and information for writing this book. The data on various industrial units were collected from Government publications, census reports as well as unpublished records of various authorities and by personal investigations and observations in the field. It was again a more strenuous task to process and compute the huge mass of statistical data thus collected and to arrive at definite conclusions.