CHAPTER III

HISTORY OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES AT KOLHAPUR

3.1 HISTORY OF KOLHAPUR

Kolhapur is a city situated in the southwest corner of Maharashtra, India. Kolhapur serves as the headquarters of the Kolhapur district. Kolhapur is situated on the banks of the river Panchganga. It has an elevation of 569 metres (1867 ft) which is higher than that of Pune. By road, Kolhapur is 228 km south of Pune, 615 km north-west of Bangalore and 530 km west of Hyderabad. The nearest cities and towns within Maharashtra are Ichalkaranji (20 km), Kagal (17 km), Sangli (50 km), and Miraj (45 km).

According to legend it was settled by Kolhasur, a demon who was later killed by Mahalakshmi to relieve the local populace. However, honouring the demon's dying wish, the city was named after him.

Kolhapur is famous for being a centre of art, education, industry as well as sports, food, headwear, footwear and jewellery.

Kolhapur's climate is a blend of coastal and inland climate of Maharashtra. The temperature has a relatively narrow range between 10°C to 35°C. Summer in Kolhapur is comparatively cooler, but much more humid, compared to neighbouring inland cities. Maximum temperatures rarely exceed 38°C and typically range between 33 to 35°C. Lows during this season are around 24°C to 26°C. The city receives abundant rainfall from June to September due to its proximity to the Western Ghats. The heavy rains often lead to severe flooding in these months. Temperatures are low in the rainy season and range between 19°C to 30°C. Kolhapur experiences winter from November to February. The winter temperatures are a bit higher compared to other cities in Maharashtra such as Pune and Nasik. Lows range from 9°C to 16°C while highs are in the range of 26°C to 32°C due to its high elevation and being adjacent to the
Western Ghats. Humidity is low in this season making weather much more pleasant.

The city is well known for the temple of goddess “Mahalaxmi”. But, it is not only famous as a tourist place but it also is one of the most important places for foundry businesses. Castings manufactured in Kolhapur are recognized globally for their accuracy and finish. Kolhapur is famous for Textile industries also. Ichalkarnji is famous for Textile business.

Industrial development in Kolhapur was initiated by an industrial estate known as Udyamnagar which is still running with small scale industries and workshops. Kolhapur has three main industrial corporations (MIDCs) namely Shiroli, Gokul Shirgaon and five star MIDC at Kagal. Kolhapur is one of the most important places for foundry businesses. Most of the foundries are in sand casting. Mechanical industries in Kolhapur are major suppliers to the OEM customers like Tata, Bajaj, Mahindra and Mahindra, General Motors, etc.

Few of the large industries are

- Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd
- Manugraph India Ltd
- Menon Group of Companies
- Raymond Textiles
- Kolhapur Steel Ltd
- Mather and Platt pumps
- Sanjay Ghodawat Group of Industries
- R. M. Mohite Group of Industries
- Vardhaman Textiles
- Ghatge Patil Industries
- Undercarriage and Tractor Parts Pvt.ltd.
- Carrera Holdings
- Gokul Milk Co-operative
- Warana Co-operative Group
There are 12 Taulkas in Kolhapur district. The researcher has collected information from six Talukas.

Karveer:- This is central tehsil and Kolhapur, the district headquarters, falls in this tehsil. Kolhapur city is situated in this tehsil.

Panhala:- Tehsil is in the central part of the Kolhapur District. Panhala tehsil is famous for its forts, and heritage.

Kagal:- Between 1775 and 1825 Kagal was sacked and burned by the Rajas of Kolhapur more than once. The oldest known mention of Kagal is in grants or sanads of the sixteenth century from the Bijapur Government.

Shirol:- This Tehsil is on the eastern side. It touches Sangli district on the east and the north, Karnataka state on the south and the Hatkanangle tehsil on west.

Hatkanagale:- This is an adjacent tehsil. Pethvadgaon and Ichalkaranji are major towns in this tehsil. Ichalkaranji is famous for its cotton mills. It is many atimes referred to as the Manchester of Maharashtra. Ichalkaranji is well developed and is one of the emerging cities of Maharashtra.

Chandgad:- This is the southern tehsil in the district and borders touches Karnataka, Goa and Kokan. It is a beautiful city and receives highest rainfall among all the tehsils of Kolhapur.

3.2 HISTORY OF SELECTED MANUFACTURING ORGANISATIONS

The following is the information about the different manufacturing organisations.

Tessitura Monti India Pvt. Ltd. (MONTI)

Tessitura Monti India Pvt. Ltd., is situated at Tamgaon in Kolhapur, Maharashtra for the manufacture of dyed yarn and cotton shirting fabrics.
The project has been promoted by Group of Tessile Monti Spa, Italy. Monti Group is in the business of manufacturing and selling shirting fabrics for more than 100 years. They have their own plant near Venice in Italy.

The Plant is spread over 85 acres of land. The plant was inaugurated on 8th April, 2003. The plant at present has facilities for yarn dyeing and weaving. The processing capacity is about 6 lacs meters per month.

The weaving machines are capable of producing about 27,000 mtrs of fabric per day. The company has also installed Luwa Humidification Plant along with Chiller to provide controlled temperature and humidity.

The company has a compliment of around 700 workers and 100 other staff on its roll.

The company has got ISO 14001: 2004 Certificate on 17.05.2008. The company believes in environmental safety and have planted various types of trees on about 20 acres of land.

INDRIA GANDHI MAHILA SAHAKARI SOOT GIRNI LTD., ICHALKARANJI

Textile is the main occupation of Ichalkaranji, aptly known as the Manchester of Maharashtra. The history of its textiles industry dates back to 1904 when the first powerloom outside the composite mill was established in India. The powerloom industry was set for a gradual growth under the patronage of Shrimat Narayanrao Ghorpade, the erstwhile Chief of this princely town. He carefully nurtured the industry in its infant days. After independence, the powerloom industry witnessed a phenomenal growth. Today, the textile industry in and around Ichalkaranji comprises around 1,00,000 powerlooms and a growing number of autolooms.

Shri K.B.Awade, ex-minister of state for industries, Maharashtra State took the mantle of leadership after the demise of Shri Abasaheb Kulkarni and Shri Dattajirao Kadam. Many more co-operative organisations were started, and flourished, under his able leadership. He realized that women’s participation
in social and industrial activities was very small and that there was a need to create awareness among the womenfolk. Indira Gandhi Mahila Sahakari Soot Girni Ltd., a project totally owned and managed by women only, is the brainchild of Shri Awade. He has strived hard to bring the dream of women come true. Shri Prakashrao Awade, former minister for textiles, Maharashtra, has also keenly guided the project implementation since its establishment. The distinct feature of this project is that all shareholders, Board of Directors and most of the workers are women.

Women of the region gave tremendous response to the share collection and shares worth Rs.16.00 Lacs were purchased on the very first day i.e. 9th October 1992. The Mill was registered on 23rd October 1992 and the Board of Directors, nominated by the Government, took charge on 24th March, 1993.

The company has a workforce of 762 employees, which constitute of office staff, qualified engineers and factory employees.

RAYMONDS ZAMBAITI LIMITED

The Raymond Group was incorporated in 1925 and within a span of a few years, was transformed from being an Indian textile major to a global conglomerate. Its endeavor is to keep nurturing quality and leadership. It has always chosen the path untaken - from being the first in 1959 to introduce a polywool blend in India to creating the world's finest suiting fabric, the Super 250s made from the superfine 11.4 micron wool.

Today, the Raymond group is vertically and horizontally integrated to provide customers total textile solutions. Few companies globally have such a diverse product range of nearly 20,000 varieties of worsted suiting to cater to customers across age groups, occasions and styles.

They manufacture for the world the finest fabrics - from wool to wool-blended worsted suiting to specialty ring denims as well as high value shirting.
The Raymond Group also has an expansive retail presence established through the exclusive chain of 'The Raymond Shop' and stand-alone brand stores.

They are today one of the largest players in fabrics, designer wear, denim, cosmetics and toiletries, engineering files and tools, prophylactics and air charter services in national and international markets. All their plants are ISO certified, leveraging on cutting-edge technology that adheres to the highest quality parameters while also being environment friendly.

A joint venture with the internationally renowned Cotonificio Honegger S.P.A., (part of Gruppo Zambaiti), Raymond Zambaiti Ltd. produces exclusive cotton shirting and bottom weight fabrics. Gruppo Zambaiti is one of Italy's most popular high fashion cotton textile groups known for their design and development. The company supplies its creations to leading shirt brands the world over.

Manufacturing facility, based in Kolhapur, has an installed capacity of 21.6 million meters annually.

INDO COUNT

Indo Count is manufacturing 100% cotton yarns and knitted fabric of the highest international quality standards. All its production has been exported since the inception of the company. The yarns are used for both knitting and weaving by some of the best names in the industry.

Indo Count's performance has been a revelation. Plant capacity has made a quantum jump from a moderate 12,096 spindles in 1991 to the present 56,448 spindles and has also diversified into dyed yarns, core spun yarns and knitted fabrics. All this has been achieved against a backdrop of worldwide recessionary pressures.

Any business firm's true mettle would be judged by its performance during periods of economic recession. It is said that, 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going', this analogy, albeit somewhat cliched, very, aptly describes Indo Count Industries Limited.