

CHAPTER -IX.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

The artisans engaged in the Footwear Cottage industry at Agra are all specialized in the various jobs involved in making shoes. Some of them underwent institutional training while majority of them learned the work from their own fathers, close relatives or Ustads.

None of the workshop owner was found to have passed even High School and most of them received no formal education at all. The individuals hardly had a ^{discretion} ~~direction~~ in the matter of choice of occupation. As a rule, all of them were guided and introduced to the occupation at a very young age by their fathers, close relatives or circumstances. The general lack of education and consequently of initiative was probably responsible for this state of affairs. This coupled with poverty and the temptation of immediate earnings made them naturally inclined towards this occupation. Thus in most cases the decision for them was provided by the environment.

In the population studied, only Men and children worked. Women did not do any specific jobs. They were mainly housewives, helping their husbands casually in miscellaneous work incidental to their husbands jobs. The women consequently were more workless and had a lot of time that could be utilised for some more useful purpose.

The houses of these artisans were anything but comfortable. Most of them had no separate kitchen, latrine bathroom or running water supply. None has built a house for himself. In all cases except one where a hut has been raised, the houses were inherited.

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No house appear to have been repaired recently. Even white-washing has not been done for years.

The village has been provided with public latrines, urinals and hydrant but no bathroom exists. The general cleanliness was bad.

The girls ^{were} ~~do~~ not allowed higher education. They do not appear to be favoured by parents. The school going sons were three times as many as girls. Some of the parents were specific about the carrier, ~~They desired~~ their sons to join. All except two did not like their sons to join their own profession. This shows that they do not like their own profession the reason for which are not far to seek.

The Government assistance has helped a lot in the matter of education. The boys receiving higher education especially could hardly be expected to pursue their education had they not received government assistance. In some cases even government assistance was not sufficient to make their parents send the children for higher education because of abysmal penury.

The general health of the people was not satisfactory. Some of them were suffering with serious ailments while most of them fell an easy prey to the seasonal diseases owing to lack of resistance to diseases in them. This is because their food is barely sufficient to keep the body and soul together and is devoid of all these elements which are responsible for building resistance in the body. Most of them could ill-effort to get themselves treated properly. Some of them have really learned to live with their ailments in absence of resources to get ~~thex~~ rid of them.

The earning capacity of most of them by labour alone ranges from Rs 8 to Rs. 12 per-day which is not quite low. However they do not get work regularly all the year round. The industry is dependent upon the local-shoe market where seasonal fluctuations involving long work-less period are a rule. Consequently the artisans are able to get work from 150 days to 200 in a year. The artisans owning workshops are no better than other artisans. Owing to various mal-practices in shoe market and raw material market they are inhumanly exploited and are hardly able to make profits. Their labour was found to be more than the profits except in a few cases. They continue to be in this occupation because they are neither conscious of any other possibility and are totally devoid of any initiative. This generates a certain amount of fatalism in them.

A number of organizations are concerned with the trade prominent among them are State Trading Corporation, Uttar Pradesh Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation. The Uttar Pradesh Leather Development and Marketing Corporation and the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and the Nationalised banks. They could have played a useful role in the amelioration of the conditions of these people. However, their approach and method, as they are at present, have proved inadequate for various reasons. Consequently, the condition of the artisans continues to be as bad as it has been earlier. People did assert that the condition was much better during the early years of independence and they were more comfortable then.

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As has been scientifically proved, man's needs are organized in a series of hierarchy of importance. At the lowest level but pre-eminently important are the physiological needs. The needs that are meant to preserve the physical being. Man lives for bread alone, when there is no bread. Next in importance are his safety needs and dominate man's behaviour when physiological needs are reasonably satisfied. They are concerned with protection against danger, threat, deprivation. It is only when these needs are fulfilled, he is ready to take risk and manifest initiative.

When the physiological and safety needs are satisfied, the behaviour is governed by other higher category needs like need for belonging for association, for acceptance by his fellows, for giving and receiving friendship and love. Next needs are Ego needs and self-fulfilment needs. These needs are concerned with self-esteem, self-confidence, independence, achievement, competence, knowledge, reputation, status, recognition, appreciation, deserved respect of one's fellows and finally with realising one's potentialities, for continued self-development, for being creative.

As would appear from the facts, the life of these people go on veering between the first two i.e., physiological and safety needs. Consequently, they do not reach even upto the level of realising social needs, not to say of Ego and Self-actualization needs.

This is the reason why they do not manifest any social awareness and lack of initiative. Most of the time they appear to be thinking of the tomorrow. If they sometime manifest the behaviour that may not be entirely in keeping with the standard of a civilized society, one should not be surprised. To expect

that they would take a rightful place in the society as responsible citizens can at best be a wishful thinking.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The best way to ameliorate the socio-economic condition is to ensure the fulfilment of physiological and safety needs. The present study cannot claim to have reflected the entire situation thoroughly and some aspects at least need a more thorough research with a view to indentifying all the factors responsible for the existing situation. However, on the basis of the facts that have been discovered the following suggestions are made.

1. The first and foremost step is to organise the raw material market and disposal of goods without exploitation. This can be done by means of pooling the resources of all the organisations concerned with the task of uplifting these people. Their separate effects prove inadequate to meet the needs and in absence of adequate machinery to guide and supervise the resources, which are always scarce and therefore precious, get dissipated. This pooling can lead to the creation of adequate machinery to take care of supply of raw material and disposal of finished product.
2. The artisans should be asked to produce only quality goods. These goods once becoming popular will create for themselves adequate market.
3. In marketing the scheme of Emporium with the Khadi and Village Industries Commission can be given practical shape by extending the facility to the individuals who can work on

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