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Usefulness of Khadi and Village Industries in the Development of Indian Economy

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ABSTRACT: The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body formed in April 1957 by the Government of India, under the Act of Parliament, 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956'. It is an apex organisation under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, with regard to khadi and village industries within India, which seeks to - "plan, promote, facilitate, organise and assist in the establishment and development of khadi and village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary."^[1]

In April 1957, it took over the work of former All India Khadi and Village Industries Board.^[2] Its head office is in Mumbai, whereas its six zonal offices in Delhi, Bhopal, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai and Guwahati. Other than its zonal offices, it has offices in 28 states for the implementation of its various programmes

KEYWORDS: khadi, village, industries, Indian, economy

I. INTRODUCTION

Khadi

"The livery of freedom" – Mahatma Gandhi^[3]

Khadi, (pronounced Khādī) refers to hand-spun and hand-woven cloth. The raw materials may be cotton, silk, or wool, which are spun into threads on a charkha (a traditional spinning implement).

Khadi was launched in 1920 as a political weapon in the Swadeshi movement of Mahatma Gandhi.

Khadi is sourced from different parts of India, depending upon its raw materials - While the silk variety is sourced from West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha and North Eastern states, the cotton variety comes from Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. Khadi poly is spun in Gujarat and Rajasthan while Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir Karnataka are known for the woolen variety.

There are a wide range of Khadi personal care products manufactured in Uttarakhand Khadi Products - Handmade and Natural^[1,2,3]

Trademark

Khadi and Village Industries Commission holds the exclusive rights to use the trademark "Khadi" and "Khadi India". The National Internet Exchange of India Domain Dispute Policy (INDRP) Arbitration Tribunal in New Delhi rejected the contention of a private entity that "Khadi" is a generic word.^{[4][5][6]}

Village Industry

Any Industry that is located within a rural area, where the Fixed Capital Investment per Artisan (weaver) does not exceed Rupees One hundred thousand^[7] The Fixed Capital Investment can be changed by the Government of India whenever it so requires.



Objectives of the Commission

The commission has three main objectives^[8] which guide its functioning. These are -

- The Social Objective - Providing employment in rural areas
- The Economic Objective - Providing saleable articles
- The Wider Objective - Creating self-reliance amongst people and building up a strong rural community spirit.

The commission seeks to achieve these objectives by implementing and monitoring various schemes and programs.

Implementation of Schemes and Programs

The process of Implementation of schemes and programs starts at the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises which is the administrative head of the programs. The Ministry receives funds from the Government of India, and routes these to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission for the implementation of programs and schemes related to Khadi and Village Industries.^[9]

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission then uses these funds to implement its programs either directly - Through its 29^[10] state offices, by directly funding Khadi and Village institutions and co-operatives, or indirectly through 33^[11] Khadi and Village Industries Boards, which are statutory bodies formed by the state governments within India, set up for the purpose of promoting Khadi and Village Industries in their respective states. The Khadi and Village Industries Boards, in turn, fund Khadi and Village Institutions/Co-operatives/Entrepreneurs.

At present the developmental programmes of the commission are executed through, 5,600 registered institutions, 30,138 Cooperative societies^[12] and about ~95 lakh people.^[13]

Schemes and Programs of the Commission

Prime Ministers Employment Generation Program (PMEGP)

Launched on 14, August 2008

The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) the result of the merger of two schemes - Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) and The Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP).

Rural beneficiaries receive up to a 25% margin compensation in rural areas and 15% in urban areas for the general category and 35% in rural areas and 25% in urban areas for SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities and women among other special categories.^[14]

Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certification Scheme (ISEC)[4,5,6]

The Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) Scheme is the major source of funding for the Khadi programme. It was introduced in May 1977 to mobilise funds from banking institutions to fill the gap in the actual fund requirement and its availability from budgetary sources.

Under this scheme, loans^[15] are provided by the banks to the members to meet their working/fixed capital requirements. These loans are provided at a concessional interest rate of 4% p.a.^[16] The difference between the actual interest rate and the concessional rate is borne by the commission under the 'grants' head of its budget. However, only members producing Khadi or Polyvastra (a type of Khadi) are eligible for this scheme.

Rebate Scheme

The rebate on sales of Khadi and Khadi products is made available by the Government so as to make the price of Khadi and Khadi products competitive with other textiles. Normal rebate (10 per cent) all through the year and an additional special rebate (10 per cent) for 108 days in a year, is given to the customers.^[17]

The rebate is allowed only on the sales made by the institutions/centers run by the Commission/State Boards and also at the sales centers run by the registered institutions which are engaged in the production of Khadi and polyvastra.



Recently, the finance ministry has asked the micro, small and medium enterprises ministry to redraw its rebate scheme for Khadi and village industries. Its view is that the "ministry should approach the plan commission and not seek year-to-year extension of the scheme. Furthermore, it has asked the MSME ministry to redesign the scheme in a manner that it should benefit the artisan and not the seller, which (has been) the case so far" With regard to this, A proposal received from the commission for introducing Market Development Assistance as a possible alternative to Rebate on Sale is being considered by the Government.^[18]

Budgetary Support to the Commission

The Union Government through the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, provides funds to the Commission under two heads: Plan and Non – Plan. The funds provided under the 'Plan' Head are allocated by the commission to its implementing agencies. The funds provided under the 'Non – Plan' head are mainly for the commission's administrative expenditure. Funds are provided mainly by a way of Grants and Loans.

Grants

A major part of the Khadi grant is being utilised for the payment of sales rebate, which is considered a promotional expenditure. Other expenditures under this head are: Training, Publicity, Marketing, Interest Subsidy on bank loans under ISEC scheme

Loans

Expenditures under this head include: Working Capital Expenditure and Fixed Capital Expenditure. Fixed Capital expenditure further consists of expenditure on -

a) Machinery.....1000000 b) Implements....500000 c) Work sheds....250000 d) Sales Outlets etc.250000[7,8,9]

Sales of Khadi and Village Industry Products

The products produced by the institutions are either sold by them directly, through regovernment)

In total, there are 15,431^[12] sales outlets, out of which 7,050^[19] are owned by the commission. These are spread all over India.

The products are also sold internationally through exhibitions arranged by the commission

II. DISCUSSION

In the last 9 years, the whole world is seeing the revolution that Indian artisans have woven on the charkha of Khadi. The name of that revolution is 'Self-reliant India'. Khadi commands a sentimental value for Indians. It symbolizes the need and importance of indigenous manufactured goods. Today, Khadi means the Fabric of our Nation's Progress and Resilience.

The khadi industry is one of the most prominent traditional industries in India as it not only boosts sales and employment opportunities for the artisans; but also strengthens export potential, contributes to GDP, promotes rural development and entrepreneurship.

Economic Development

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has even exceeded the turnover of the best FMCG companies in India. Owing to the constant support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, KVIC has, for the first time, clocked a massive turnover of Rs 1.34 lakh crore in 2022-23. In 2013-14, the turnover of Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) products was Rs. 31,154 crores.

There has been an unprecedented growth of 332% in the sale of indigenous Khadi products made by artisans from 2013-14 to 2022-23. Among the different KVI products, there has been unmatched growth in the production of Khadi fabrics in the last 9 years. In 2013-14, the production of Khadi clothes was Rs 811 crore, with a jump of 260%, it has touched the figure of Rs.2916 crore in 2022-23. The demand for Khadi clothes has also increased rapidly from 2013-14



to 2022-23. In 2013-14, where its sales were only Rs 1081.04 crore, by 2022-23, it increased by 450% to touch the figure of Rs 5942.93 crore.[10,11,12]

Khadi artisans associated with Khadi sector are also getting the benefit of increase in production and sale of Khadi clothes. Their remuneration has been increased by more than 150% since 2013-14. The record production of Khadi has been possible due to the continuous efforts and hard work of the cotton spinners and weavers engaged in the production and sale of Khadi.

Strengthening Rural Industries and Community Building

Rural revitalization plays an essential role in fulfilling the country's aim of becoming self-sufficient. In this regard, financial assistance provided through DBT to artisans, modernization of existing infrastructure like charkha and looms, digitization, development of new technology and designs through R&D activities has increased significantly in the last 9 years. This has contributed a lot to the development of Khadi and Village Industries products. To further strengthen the rural economy and to ensure self-sustainability, KVIC unveiled a unique government online platform eKhadiIndia.com in 2021, which showcases over 50,000 products.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has taken several other initiatives for promoting, developing and strengthening the rural traditional industries in the country. For instance, KVIC through its Village Industries Program is running skill development training programs to provide training, enhance income and improve livelihood opportunities in various rural industries like honey and beekeeping, palm jaggery, pottery, handmade paper and leather industry, rural engineering etc. Apart from this, KVIC is working on a plan to provide sewing machines as well as sewing training to rural women to provide maximum opportunities to women power in rural areas. Since 2013-14, 7.43 lakh people have been trained across the country and artisans have been provided with need-based tool kits. Further, the appeal of "Vocal for Local" has taken Khadi to new heights of popularity in the country and abroad.

Boosting Employment Opportunities

In the last couple of years, KVIC's main focus has been to create sustainable employment for artisans and unemployed youth. It has set a milestone by creating 9.5 lakh jobs in rural areas in 2022-23, whereas in 2013-14, 5.6 lakh jobs were created. Under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), the nation has set a new record by connecting the youth of the country with the Swadeshi Campaign. More than 80% of PMEGP [13,14,15] units are set up in rural areas, out of which more than 50% units are headed by SC, ST and women entrepreneurs. This has given a boost to women empowerment and women entrepreneurs in the country. Under PMEGP, a total of 73.67 lakh people have been provided employment opportunities by setting up 8.69 lakh new projects during 2022-23, with a total margin money subsidy disbursement of Rs 21870.18 crore from 2008-09 to 2022-23. Further, KVIC, through its training centres and through other promotional schemes, conducts Skill Development Programme (SDP) and Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAP) in the country for unemployed youth to generate self-employment opportunities in traditional industries.

To sum up, Khadi industry is not just a symbol of India's independence movement and cultural heritage but also an essential driver of economic growth, employment, and sustainable development. By supporting the Khadi industry, the nation has reaped social, economic, and environmental benefits, contributing to the country's overall progress.

III. RESULTS

- Recently, the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi distributed Honeybee-Boxes and Toolkits to 130 recipients as part of the Gramodyog Vikas Yojana (GVY) program.
 - The initiative was organised by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

What is Gramodyog Vikas Yojana (GVY)?

- About:
 - It was launched in March 2020.
 - It is one of the two components of the Khadi Gramodyog Vikas Yojana which is a Central Sector Scheme (CSS).



- The other component of Khadi Gramodyog Vikas Yojana is the Khadi Vikas Yojana (KVY) which includes two new components such as Rozgar Yukt Gaon, Design House (DH)
- Aim:
 - GVV aims to promote and develop the village industries through common facilities, technological modernization, training etc.
- Included Activities:
 - Agro-Based & Food Processing Industry (ABFPI)
 - Mineral-Based Industry (MBI)
 - Wellness & Cosmetics Industry (WCI)
 - Handmade Paper, Leather & Plastic Industry (HPLPI)
 - Rural Engineering & New Technology Industry (RENTI)
 - Service Industry[16,17]
- Components:
 - R &D and Product Innovation: R&D support is given to institutions that intend to carry out product development, new innovations, design development, product diversification processes etc.
 - Capacity Building: The existing MDTCs (Master Development Training Centers) and institutions of excellence address the capacity building of staff and artisans as part of the Human Resource Development and Skill Training components.
 - Marketing & Publicity: The village institutions provide market support by way of preparation of a product catalogue, industry directory, market research, new marketing techniques, buyer-seller meetings, arranging exhibitions etc.

What is KVIC?

- KVIC is a statutory body established under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.
- The KVIC is charged with the planning, promotion, organisation and implementation of programmes for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.
- It functions under the Ministry of MSMEs.

What is the Significance of Village Industries in Indian Economy?

- Employment Generation: Village industries are labor-intensive, providing ample employment opportunities in rural areas. They contribute to reducing unemployment and underemployment, particularly among the rural population.
 - These industries absorb a substantial workforce, including skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled workers.
- Rural Development: Village industries contribute to the overall development of rural areas. By establishing small-scale enterprises in villages, they help in creating local economic activities, reducing migration to urban areas, and preventing the concentration of population in cities.
- Poverty Alleviation: Village industries contribute to poverty alleviation by generating income for rural communities. They provide livelihood options for people who have limited access to formal employment opportunities, particularly in agriculture.
 - By promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment, these industries empower individuals to improve their socio-economic conditions.
- Utilisation of Local Resources: Village industries typically utilize local resources and raw materials available in rural areas. This helps in promoting sustainable development and reducing dependence on external resources.
 - It encourages the utilisation of locally available skills, traditional knowledge, and natural materials, thus preserving local heritage and culture.



- Export Potential: Many village industries produce traditional crafts, handlooms, handicrafts, and other unique products that have high demand in domestic as well as international markets.[17,18]
 - The export of these products generates foreign exchange earnings and enhances the country's global trade competitiveness.

What are the Other Initiatives for Development of Village Industries?

- Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- National Rural Livelihood Mission

IV. CONCLUSION

Any concept associated with Gandhiji should necessarily be a derivative of truth and non-violence. For this Indian rural economy is not an exception. For Gandhiji "Truth and Ahimsa must incarnate in socialism. That economics is untrue which ignores or disregards moral values."

Violence is an offshoot of exploitation is it political, social or economic. All wars between countries are fought for economic reasons directly or indirectly. The recent gulf war is an example. Similarly, lot of killings takes place due to social or inequalities and exploitation. The ever widening gulf between the have and have-nots is the root cause, leading to misery and "When the cup of misery fills it overflow is the form of revolution". Hence, an economic order free from the bane of exploitation is a prerequisite for a nonviolent peaceful society.

The Alternatives: Then, how to build an economic system which does not give room for exploitation of one by the other? We have seen that it is the unbridled play of profit motive of the privileged classes that leads to exploitation is of the under privileged. Such a situation exists in a capitalistic economy where the individual's profit motive is allowed a free play and he is given every opportunity to exploit all situations to his gain even to the extent of injuring the very society he lives in.

In trying to stem this rot, the communistic ideology swings the pendulum to the other end by curbing the profit motive[18,19] of the individual to such an extent that the person loses his individuality and initiative altogether and becomes yet another cogwheel in the machine. We have seen this system also crumble. The very 'proletariat' for whose benefit the communist philosophy was supposed to have taken birth, rose in revolt against it, because the individual, his aspiration and values were lost sight of. For Gandhiji "No society can be built on a denial of individual freedom."

Gandhiji suggested the third alternative, the 'Sarvodaya' social order, which believes "that every individual has a personality which when properly developed, has a contribution to make to society." In the economic field "decentralized commodity production ensures the producer the product of his labour." Where the producer is ensured of the fruits of his labour, there is no exploitation and there is no violence.

Mass production or production by masses: Mere production does not contribute to rise in the standard of consumption, which is supposed to indicate the standard of living. What is produced has to be consumed and for consuming, the people require the purchasing power. Purchasing power cannot be distributed either as doles or by emergency programmers like laying roads or building dams. The only effective means of distributing purchasing power is to provide productive employment to all people universally. If the stress is on mass production and not on production by the masses and for the masses there won't be consumption and in its absence there can not be further production. If the economy has to be healthy the chain of "production-consumption-production" should remain unbroken. Consumption us said to be the mother or production. Students of economies read about the "Great Depression of 1930" its cause, effects and cure. Our production pattern should have a built-in system of providing universal employment side by side with production so that larger number of people gets the purchasing power to purchase what is produced. The only alternative that answers this requirement is the labour intensive decentralized production.

2. Chakravarthi Rajagopalachari also said the same thing in different words. "You can not distribute wealth after producing it. You won't succeed in getting neb to agree to it. But you can produce wealth so as to secure equitable distribution before producing it"

3. Gandhiji conceived Khadi Programme as a key to solve the economic problems of the country. According to him "Its one great merit is that it solves, as nothing else can, the economic problem of Indian and removes starvation" (collected works of Mahatma Gandhi, Volume 23:45859). In the year 1925 he wrote in Young India "If we want the



millions to earn a few paises by doing honest and honorable work, the only possible instrument to present them with, in our country, is the gentle and graceful spinning wheel."

By advocating spinning wheel, one should not think that Gandhiji was against machines. But he asserted and said "that to produce cloth, which is our basic need, in mills is an economic blunder of the first magnitude just as it would be to supply cheap bread through huge bakeries established in big cities and to destroy the family stove." He also associated Khadi with his unique concepts of peace, non-violence, trust and self sufficiency. With the all pervading inspiration given by Gandhiji, Khadi not only prospered but also became the livery of Freedom Movement, in spite of the stiff opposition from the alien government.

4. After we attained freedom the Union Government of free India, continued the legacy of the freedom movement and gave support of the Khadi programme . A statutory Khadi and village Industries Commission was constituted at the All India Level, and State Khadi and Village Industries Boards sprang up in each state. As a result of this all round support, the Khadi sector could make enormous contribution to the nation's economy in terms of production and employment. The annual production of Khadi has touched Rs. 350 Crores, thereby providing employment to 13.87 lakhs of rural people.

Considering the useful contribution the Khadi Sector is making to the country's economy, particularly in the field of rural employment, the Government of India thought it fit to ensure its continuation even by subsidizing its product. The selling price of Khadi is slightly higher than that of mill made cloth because it is handspun and hand woven. The wage component in the Khadi cloth is higher than in the mill cloth. To ensure that Khadi is sold even though its price is higher and at the same time to see that the buyer is not penalized on account of this, the Government offered what we know as 'Rebate'. This rebate actually goes to the buyer and not to the producing institutions. In fact the Khadi institution are actually the losers because they allow rebate to the buyers and wait for years to get it reimbursed by the Government.[6]

Waning Interests

Of late, the Government of India appears to be losing interest in the development of Khadi Sector. This is perhaps in tune with the policy of Liberalization, Globalization and Free Market Economy. The same Government, which a few decades back, considered assistance to Khadi a Justifiable necessity because of its useful contribution to the economy and its inability to withstand the competition with mill sector. The Government conveniently forgets of Khadi that it is had spun and hand woven which makes it costly is an asset to the society in as much as it results in providing employment to millions of rural people, particularly women.

Some people question about the economic viability of Khadi. If what is meant by the question is whether Khadi can compete in price with the mill cloth, the answer is an emphatic 'no'. But, this negative answer applies to everything produced by man power applies to everything produced by man power as against the articles produced by labour machinery. Even goods manufactured in factories in India like cloth, iron, sugar etc. required state aid in some form or the other. Such being the case to expect Khadi to stand on its own legs is to ignore its basic character and useful contribution to Indian economy. Khadi sector employs 20 spinners, mostly woman, to produce the same quantity of yarn which is produced by a single power operated spindle.

A Pittance

The extent of support the Khadi sector gets from the Government is a pittance compared to what other Government enterprises and Multi-national companies get in the normal course. Take for instance Maruthi Udyog. To quote Sri Murusoli Maran, Union Minister for industries "Though the Government's contribution to Maruthi Udyog's equity is half of the Rs.133 corers, the public exchequer have already spent hundreds of corers by way of excise concessions, customs duty relief and sales tax waivers. It has become a monopoly company, a champion because of state." Suzuki of Japan has already repatriated Rs. 988.87 corers as profit over the past 12 years. In this background let us examine the downward trend in the Government's assistance to Khadi sector. In the past the working fund given to khadi programme was interest free. Now 4.5% interest is being charged on Khadi. Earlier the Government used to give loans from plan provision. Now plan provision has depleted and the Khadi sevtor is financed by the consortium of banks (CBC), which expects working fund to be repaid in installments, along with interest. This is something, which Khadi sector cannot withstand because of provision in the cost chart. Of late, for even the capital expenditure loan for buying charkhas and looms the institutions are directed to go to banks under Margin Money Scheme. Drawing funds from commercial banks is not that easy. Evan rebate is being given reluctantly and it may stop any time.[16,17]

Khadi is not mere cloth. It is a process of socio-economic reconstruction of our society. It is linked with the welfare of millions of our rural poor. As long as the government continues to proclaim that its objective is the welfare of the



people, it has to continue its support to khadi Programme. Taking the contribution of khadi to the task of employment generation into consideration, Government has to considerate it as a priority sector and do all that is required to keep it healthy. If any one thinks that government is doing a favour to the Khadi Sector, by extending assistance to it, he is completely mistaken. Khadi contributes to the welfare of the people and therefore it is the people's right to expect support from the Governments. Yes, Khadi sector can forego the governments assistance, if Government's of certain varieties of cloth is reserved for this Khadi sector. Further, about 50% of the cloth required by Government departments like Hospitals & Jails may be purchased form Khadi sector. If these positive steps are taken by the Government, them Khadi sector can become self-supporting. But the chances of Government taking such positive action are bleak.

The Khadi Sector is at cross roads today. It is facing a severe challenge. There is immense scope for expansion. But it is unable to do so for want of support. Even its existence is at stake. There are two options before the Khadi sector.

1. To fight with the Government for getting its legitimate assistance in a democratic and nonviolent way. This is legitimate cause; the programme is in the interest of the country's economy. We have a democratic Government and it is its duty to do what is good for the people, particularly the rural masses. But, such a step needs support of the people. We should do all that is required to people's support. Can we do it is the question.

2. To carry on Khadi programme as at present, that is, on a commercial basis which means production for sale, Government's support is essential. While we continue our efforts to secure Governments support, we should at the same time try to develop Khadi on individual self sufficiency basic that is "Swavalambi Khadi." Even today there are people, who spin at home and get their yarn woven for their use. There is other who spin and get their yarn exchanged for cloth in the Khadi Bhandars. Number of such Swavalambi Khadi wearers should be made to multiply.

3. Thus, instead of limiting our activity to commercial Khadi as at present we should concentrate more and more on Swavalambi Khadi. That means we will continue commercial Khadi to the extent possible, with or without Government support, and supplement it with Swavalambi Khadi.

Whither are we going?

But, are we going in the path shown by Gandhi ji is the question that each one of us should pose our self. No, we are not going in the path shown by Gandhi ji. It may not be wrong to say that we are going in the opposite direction. The path we are adopting for bringing about development in our country shows that we have ignored the fundamental truth that the bulk of our population live in rural India. That is why Dr. J. C. Kumarappa wrote "The trend of events seems to be such that we shall end by hanging ourselves with scientific ropes".

Globalization & Liberalization:

The new concepts of Globalization and Privatization being advocated by the World Trade Organization (WTO) are not at all be beneficial to India and to the other underdeveloped and the developing countries. By opening up the developing countries. By opening up the markets of the poor countries for the consumer products produced by the rich countries which are cheaper because of the heavy subsidies and tax concessions, the WTO is only helping the rich countries. Further all sorts of restrictions are imposed for products of poor countries to reach the countries.

The policies adopted by the WTO which is dominated by the countries like the USA and the Western Union Countries, are helping the rich countries to exploit the underdeveloped and the developing countries.[17,18]

Consumer Culture:

These are new concepts of Globalization. Liberalization and privation are further spoiling the people by spreading the consumer culture. Man is getting ready to do anything to meet his consumer needs. One should not forget that the world has enough to meet every man's need but not for any man's greed. Further, the rich nations by adopting industrialization without any control or restrictions are only pollution the mother earth's environment by carbon dioxide emission. This unhealthy trend was discussed with all seriousness in the earth summit held at Rio-de-Jenero. But the summit could not bring about any solution particularly because of non-cooperation by the developed countries. The General Secretary of this Earth summit Mr. Maurice Stong was so disappointed with the outcome that he said "we have been the most successful species ever; we are now a species out of control. Our very success is leading us into a dangerous future." If we continue to develop this consumer culture, the result will be, as some one has warned "Everyman for himself and the devil takes the hind most."

Growth in gross Domestic product (GDP) alone cannot bring Justice and establish a peaceful society. What India needs is Distributive Justice and environmental protection. Decentralized economic development is the only means for achieving this. Centralization and exploitation are the two sides of the same coin. Exploitation of one by the other leads to violence and violence disturbs peace.



The living condition of the poor man living in rural India can be improved only by adopting the policy of sustainable development or in other words economics of decentralization which Mahatma Gandhi and J.C. Kummerappa advocated. For achieving this they gave us the programme of Rural Development through Khadi and Village industries.

Let us realize this before it becomes too late.[19]

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