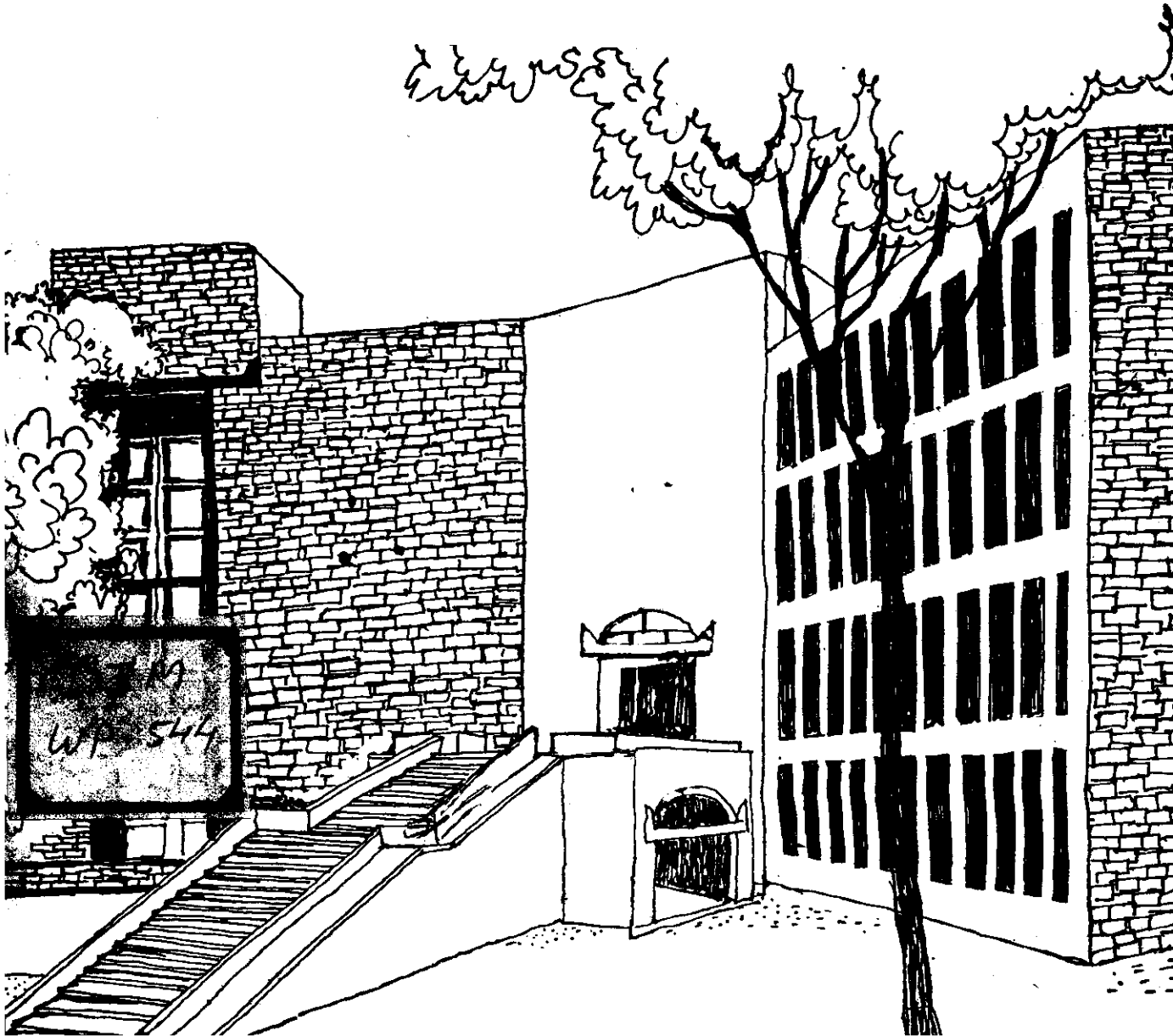


Working Paper



VINCHUR HANDLOOM WEAVERS COOPERATIVE SOCIETY:
A CASE STUDY

By

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W P No. 544

December 1984

WP544

1984
(544)

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VINCHUR HANDLOOM WEAVERS COOPERATIVE SOCIETY : A CASE STUDY

P.M. Shingi

The Vinchur Handloom Weavers Industrial Cooperative Society of Vinchur village in Maharashtra was registered in 1938. The society had faced two major crises before 1955 when the members of the governing body and the employees had indulged in malpractices leading almost to the closure of the society. A new management committee was elected under the chairmanship of Mr. Nagu Mahadu Sarode in 1955 and he continued in that position till his death 24 years later. During the first year of his tenure, the managing committee met 25 times and passed an astonishing number of 81 resolutions. The basic tasks before the society, he thought, were to a) improve the deteriorating condition of the society; b) provide sufficient work to the weavers; c) obtain credit and grants from the government to purchase improved looms; and d) settle legal disputes. Mr. Sarode was ably assisted by Mr. Gopal Govind Vibhute who continues to be the secretary of the society.

According to the old residents of the village about 800 looms were working in 1914. This vocation was not restricted to weavers alone, and people belonging to other castes like the Brahmins and Marathas, Vanjari, and Teli also had their looms fitted in their houses. The society had 174 registered members. However, by 1957 only 133 members were alive. Another society

called the New Vinchur Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society was formed during that period and some unhappy members of the old society joined the new society. The following paragraphs give the year-wise account of the activities and the performance of the society.

1957-58

In the 1957-58 cooperative accounting year the society had only 68 active members. The production during this year was valued at Rs. 52,229 and sales at Rs. 53,361. In response to government policy, steps were initiated to obtain loans to buy powerlooms to increase productivity and earning capacity of the weavers. However, the request was turned down by the government as the village was not electrified. Pursuant to the changing handloom policy, the society was however successful to some extent in obtaining the loan and the grant for replacing old and traditional looms by improved ones. Yarn was supplied by traders from Yaloo, a business centre about 30 km away from the village, who also bought the finished goods. With the help of a government loan of Rs. 600 and a grant of Rs. 450, the society started its own dyeing centre as an independent profit centre.

1958-59

The society introduced 10 improved looms. Demand for one of its important handloom products called Vinchuri Baand sari

was picking up. Vinchur sarees had a reputation for fast colours and weaving quality, and the society took care to maintain that reputation. The problem was how to increase the number of looms to meet the increasing demand.

The society took a decision to sell its products through traders at places like Chandor, Nandgaon, and Manmad. The production of the society increased to Rs. 73,254. The members expressed their desire to own powerlooms. The society also introduced the welfare and the building fund for the benefits of its members.

1959-60

The society was successful in obtaining sufficient looms and grant to introduce another batch of 28 automatic looms. The number of looms functioning was now 63, twenty-five of which were old pit-looms. The membership had declined further as eight weavers joined the New Vinchur Society and another three had migrated. In spite of this reduction, the society faced the problem of working capital as demand for its products was increasing. The total production was worth Rs. 70,000. The society therefore decided to accept deposits and securities from its members in addition to credit from the district central cooperative bank. In the meantime, the government had also sanctioned a loan-cum-grant of Rs. 71,000 for powerlooms to be operated on oil

engines till the village was electrified. Efforts were made to obtain loan for the construction of the powerloom shed. Simultaneously, the society took a decision to introduce new **sarees** of 40x40 and 60x60 though the response from the traders was not satisfactory. The society, therefore, decided to open its own sales depot at Lasalgaon, a nearby business centre. Sales arrangements for the old products continued with the traders.

1960-61

The Auditor classified the society as 'A' class. On the basis of its functioning, the society could obtain a record amount of loans and grants, which no other society could get, under different schemes from the government for improvement of loom equipments. It also received a loan of Rs. 6000 and a grant of Rs. 3000 for construction of the powerloom shed. A small portion of land was given as gift for this purpose by the chairman of the society. Though 15 powerlooms were sanctioned, the society also requested for another 15 powerlooms as the members showed interest in the proposal. The society was interested in increasing its production. Since the resources were directed towards strengthening of the powerloom activity which primarily produced grey material, the plan to set up a new outlet at Lasalgaon was postponed. Besides, the Nasik District Industrial Cooperative Association had also agreed to sell the finished goods through its outlet at Nasik. The total production in this year

reached to Rs. 78,510 and the society was running into profit.

1962-63

As business was improving, even the deposits of the members were proving inadequate to meet the working capital requirements. The amount of loans was insufficient as well. The society therefore decided to seek long-term credit offered by the government under the revised handloom policy. Simultaneously, it also explored the possibility of obtaining short-term credit against the stock produced during the slack season. The demand for its product was satisfactory. Though good progress was made towards installation of powerlooms, the local contractor played a mischief in the construction of shed, and legal steps had to be initiated. The dependence of the society on traders for sale of sarees was decreasing to some extent, as the District Association was helpful in selling a major portion of the finished goods. A year's contract was given to Madhavlal & Co. of Bombay to supply beams for powerlooms and purchase the grey material. Powerloom owners only received wages in turn. It was expected that powerlooms would be subjected to excise duty and their new venture might face problems in future. The powerloom scheme was introduced by the government with the sole object of improving the economic conditions of the weavers by increasing their potential to earn more.

1964-65

The powerlooms shed was finally constructed with additional investment. The Paschim Maharashtra apex body of the weavers of Solapur became the shareholder of the society and arranged for supply of yarn and other raw material through the Nasik District Association. In spite of this, raw materials had to be purchased from the open market at high prices. Wage rates of the weavers were increased through the selling price remained constant. The dyeing centre made profit as usual, but the powerloom centre incurred losses as the traders from Bombay controlled the total process of the production of grey material. Because of inadequate working capital the society itself could not keep its member-weavers busy on its own. The society preferred a separate government machinery to carry out the powerloom business. Wages given to the powerloom weavers were comparatively lower and the members were not happy. The amount received as wages by the powerloom operators came to Rs. 5.17 per day as against the going rate of Rs. 6.00 for the handloom weavers (see Table 1).

Therefore, the members closed down their powerlooms for almost eight months during this year. Minimum charges of the electricity bill, the excise duty, and interest on the loan had to be paid and this created problems for the society. The commission received by the society was also not adequate as business transactions were reduced substantially. Besides there was a

TABLE 1 : POWERLOOM WAGES - 1964-65

Wages	:	Rs. 0.20 per metre
Daily Production	:	Average 50 metres
Daily Income	:	Rs. 10.00
Deductions:		
i) towards loan	:	Rs. 2.50
ii) by way of security	:	Rs. 0.30
iii) interest on loan	:	Rs. 0.50
iv) electricity charges	:	<u>Rs. 1.00</u>
Total deductions	:	Rs. 4.30
Amount received as powerloom wages	:	Rs. 5.70
Amount received as handloom wages	:	Rs. 6.00

technical problem. It was the responsibility of the society to receive finished cloth from the members, note down the length of the material, identify the weaving defects through a panel of nominated members, and arrange for packing and the delivery of goods at its own cost. The society used to make payments to the weavers on the basis of its calculations. However, final accounts indicating the reject materials came only after 3-4 months and it was difficult for the society to convince its members to return the amount already paid. It was therefore proposed that the powerlooms should be surrendered to the government as the activity was non-economical

The society was proud to receive the first prize of a rotating trophy for its excellent functioning in the district in a competition of the All India Handloom Week.

1965-66

No credit was pending and the Reserve Bank of India sanctioned a total loan of Rs. 30,000. A fresh list of members was needed as the department of cooperatives advised the society to introduce secret ballot system of elections. The total production in this year was valued at Rs. 1,10,137 and the sales were Rs. 1,21,223. A major portion of the sales was through the District Association. In addition to the expenses of the society, the wages given to weavers were also increasing. Efforts to start the powerlooms again were unsuccessful. Therefore, electricity was disconnected. Powerloom accounts needed to be settled, as the recovery notices were sent by the Recovery Officer. It was feared that, because of powerloom recovery, the main business of handloom itself might get affected. Since powerlooms came to standstill, the earlier proposal to open the society's sales depot at Lasalgaon was revived and an initial grant of Rs. 1,250 was obtained. By the middle of 1966, the depot was in operation and every member was appealed to strive towards promotion of handloom. The society won the rotating trophy for the second time and was awarded another trophy by the Maharashtra State Cooperative Federation for its remarkable progress. The credit rightfully belonged to the chairman and the

secretary of the society who completed 12 years of their meritorious services this year. Many personalities and officers started visiting the society. Contributions of the Nasik District Association to boost the sales of the society in the previous years was recognized.

1966-67

The powerlooms were closed down and the government was requested again to take back the looms. The sales depot at Lasalgaon was running in loss because of inadequate working capital and inefficient staff and the society decided to close the depot. The Nasik District Association and the traders from Yeola helped the society to supply yarn and sell goods. Production was to the tune of Rs. 1,09,186. The RBI extended its credit of Rs. 30,000.

1967-68

This year was a turning point for the society. Some of the members had withdrawn their deposits. The RBI cash credit and hypothecation loan period was not extended which required a large sum towards payment of instalments. The business of the Nasik District Association came to grinding halt for reasons not specified to the society. The society had to recover Rs. 20,000 from the Association which was not forthcoming. All these events affected the working capital requirements. All the powerlooms were closed down and the society was running only 30-35 handlooms. A viable unit required a minimum of 50 looms. Scope to increase the number

of looms was not in sight. A decision was therefore taken to cut down the society's expenses and as a result the service of the salesman was discontinued. A trader from Malegaon, one of the major centres of powerloom industry in the country, offered to sell handloom products of the society.

The society still appeared to be running in profit because of the grants and dividends it received. Closure of the Association forced the society to look for new market places as stocks of finished goods were piling. Whatever was sold at Malegaon and other places was therefore sold at reduced profits. Expenses on transport and travel increased as a result of search and negotiations with traders at different places. Demand for handloom products was also sluggish.

To make things worse for the society, the 15 handloom weavers stopped producing as it was not remunerative for them. They switched over to other vocations (see Exhibit 1). Less production meant less profits for the society. The chairman frantically appealed to the every member to help a) increase production; b) sell more handloom goods; c) secure good market outlets; d) pay attention to quality; e) maintain colour uniformity and modern designs; and f) maintain the competitive prices. The total value of production in this year was Rs. 94,808. Profitability of the dyeing centre also reduced because of the reduction in number of handlooms in operation.

The government finally settled the accounts of the powerlooms and ordered the society to hand over the looms to the cooperative societies of Chopada (6 looms) and the Dharangaon (9 looms) as these societies showed interest in powerlooms. The accumulated losses were to be paid by the society in annual instalments of Rs. 2000 to the government.

Given the situation in which it was placed the society made following requests to the government:

- a) limit on bank credit should be extended
- b) yarn and chemicals should be available at controlled prices
- c) every district should have a handloom house
- d) there should be a permanent rebate of 10 paise on handloom goods
- e) no taxes should be levied on handloom equipments.

1968-69

Deposits by the members reduced further. The Chairman Mr. Sarode was worried about the amount due from the District Association. Another problem was how to halt the reducing number of handlooms. Hardly 30 looms were in production. Income of the society was not sufficient to maintain its annual expenses. The level of production reduced further to Rs. 80,359. The society decided to purchase the finished goods of other small societies to sell on commission basis through its outlets to augment its

income. Total sales were to the tune of Rs. 1,01,649. Stock were sold with the help of government rebate policy and profits were shown. It was also decided to rent out the powerloom shed to the girl's high school to have a permanent source of income to the society. Resolutions were sent to government to ban the manufacturer of colour sarees on powerlooms as these sarees were affecting the market for handloom sarees. Credit facilities for the supply of raw material this year came were extended by the traders of Yeola.

1969-70

Severe glut in the market affected the sales turnover by 20 per cent. It became difficult to provide work to the active members. Therefore, the society accepted deposits worth Rs. 12,500 from others at the rate of 12 per cent. It also applied for a fresh loan of Rs. 10,000 from the RBI. Legal proceedings were initiated against the Nasik District Association for the payment of arrears. The Yeola traders helped the society at this juncture by supplying the required quantity of raw material on credit. Unfortunately, the government took a policy decision to discontinue the rebate given on handloom products. This decision affected the sales substantially. A neighbouring handloom weavers cooperative society at Chandore went into liquidation. It was noticed that all the societies which opted for partial conversion to powerlooms failed in their endeavour and carried a big amount of debt in their books. The total production of the society in this year was Rs. 81,454.

1970-71

The recession continued in the second year. Furthermore, drought conditions prevailed in this year. Purchasing power of the farming community, the prime clients of the handloom products, was affected considerably. Stocks worth Rs. 45,000 accumulated in this year. Production came down from Rs. 81,454 to Rs. 68,664. The traders started complaining that the cost of production as compared to that of other societies was higher. The society was faced with a dilemma. Should it increase the number of looms, production would be more, stocks would be piling, working capital would be locked, more deposits would have to be sought to keep weavers busy, and more interest would be paid resulting in losses. Should the number of looms go down, profitability went down obviously as 50 looms were required to be a viable unit. The society therefore decided to strengthen its marketing efforts. The Nasik District Association's sales depot, through which its products were sold earlier, was vacant. The society agreed to pay a commission of Rs. 101 per month to the Association for the permission to run the depot, to sell the society's products. The depot was old styled. Besides, it was a new venture for the society; it did not sufficient contact in the city and confidence of the customers was to be gained. Prevailing drought conditions and the off-season inauguration produced disappointing results. Nevertheless, it could achieve sales worth Rs. 29,000 to make it a profitable proposition.

The experience showed that a) the shop layout and illumination needed to be improved; b) handloom products of other societies needed to be stocked and sold; c) wholesale business needed to be added to retailing; and d) material which could be sold in towns needed to be produced. The society also took part for the first time in an exhibition on handicrafts and handlooms and received a certificate for its excellent performance.

The Government of Maharashtra had appointed a high power committee under the chairmanship of the Labour Minister to study the handloom industry in Maharashtra and make suitable recommendations to provide a stable foundation for its growth. One of its recommendations was to put a ban on the production of coloured sarees on powerlooms to protect and revive the handloom industry.

1971-72

The Nasik District Association of the Weavers Industrial Societies finally went into liquidation and the society could recover only two-third of its principal amount: Notices were also served by the Collector to repay the remaining amount of loans taken for powerlooms. The Electricity Board filed a case against the society for recovery of outstanding bills. Government protection was sought. Production reached the lowest level of Rs. 67,915. However, it purchased sarees of 80x80 variety and sold it through its own outlet. The total sales therefore were to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh. Unprecedented drought conditions prevailed

for the third calendar year. Markets had reached the low ebb. Stocks continued to pile further. The governing body thought that the society's reliance on 60x60 sarees was not desirable and it decided to produce 80x80 sarees at competitive prices. The sales depot at Nasik was doing satisfactory business. The society was also able to arrange some working capital out of the cash sales generated by the depot. The cash sales of the depot in this year were Rs. 35,000. The Chairman also suggested to seek additional bank credit of Rs.25,000 to completely renovate the shop to improve its functioning. The Yeola traders continued to supply yarn and in addition to the sales depot, the products were sold through traders at Nandgaon, Manmad, Malegaon, and Nasik. The society had been maintaining its 'A' class audit status for last 14 years.

The Maharashtra State Handloom Corporation, which was set up to revive the traditional and skill-based handloom industry so it can achieve a respectable position in the national economy, assigned responsibility to the Solapur based apex body of handloom cooperatives to supply raw material at control prices to the society and sell its finished goods in different markets. The Chairman of the Vinchur society was nominated on the Board of the apex body. But the experience had been disappointing.

1972-73

The government's contribution to the share capital of the society increased substantially. However, the accumulated stocks had frozen the working capital of Rs. 53,000. A major problem faced in this year was the artificial shortage of yarn in the market. The society could not give sufficient work to the weavers. Prices of foodgrains and other commodities had increased in the mean time because of drought conditions of previous years and the inflation. Condition of the weavers was deteriorating. A special general body meeting was called to discuss the situation but no alternative was visible. Though the level of production remained low at Rs. 76,317, stocks accumulated over the years were available for sale. The Government put restrictions on the yarn prices and introduced the distribution of yarn on controlled prices on quota basis from April 1973. The quantity allotted was, however, not sufficient, to run the looms even for a month. Besides, the controlled yarn was of poor quality. The government also withdrew a rebate of 5 paise on the retail sale and in place introduced a rebate of 3 paise on both the wholesale as well as the retail sale.

Improvements were made in the sales depot at Nasik. New furniture and carpets were purchased and more amenities were provided to the customers.

On instructions from the government, a thrift fund for weavers was created from April 1973. Under this scheme 3 paise per

rupee of wages were to be deducted to obtain the equal amount from the government for the weavers. It was noticed that cooperation of the Solapur based apex body was not satisfactory.

1973-74

After a year of artificial shortage and rationing of yarn, the prices of raw material shot up. The prices of finished goods had to be increased making them incompetent. Need for the government protection was felt strongly. The society wanted

- a) sufficient supply of raw material at appropriate prices;
- b) reasonably good network of government outlets to market the produce; and c) a guarantee of minimum wages to the weavers.

The volume of sales at the Nasik depot reached Rs. 50,000. Traders from Bhivandi, Niphad, Malegaon, Nandgaon, and Solapur also sold society's products. Good marketing facilities coupled with the enhanced supply of yarn increased the level of production to Rs. 1,03,700. However, the value of products was also high. Proposal was also mooted to sell material of the apex body on commission basis.

1974-75

Though prices were high, the supply of yarn improved considerably. Prices of other commodities were increasing and therefore wage rates of the weavers were increased. Weavers were still facing difficult days. Total production was worth Rs. 1,21,903.

The sale figure reached 1,48,497, which included the sale of sarces of Ahmednagar. The sales depot at Nasik was doing good business in its fifth year of operation. As compared to the previous years, it also increased by 40 per cent to Rs. 70,000. The state government gave permission to the depot to sell handloom cloth to government employees on credit. Therefore, need was felt to secure more capital to a) purchase stock of other societies and b) improve the layout further. The Chairman of the society, Mr. Sarode, was on the Board of Directors of the apex body at Solapur for last 5 years but he was not happy with the support from this body.

1975-76

Since last year, the government had offered to give two per cent of the rebate amount as share capital for a period of 15 years. The share capital of the society therefore reached Rs. 65,000. Most of the raw material was purchased from the open market. The central government gave a special rebate of 20 per cent on the sale value to customers to liquidate the accumulated stocks in peak selling seasons. Two separate stalls were opened during the season. The society entered into one year agreement with the Solapur apex body to sell their handloom material on commission basis through its sales depot on the understanding that the apex body would pay the salary of one salesman of the depot. This provision was not complied with and the sales depot had to offer some loss. Requests for grant to the depot was turned down

by the government. Response to the scheme of selling material on credit to government employees was poor. Demand for Solapur handloom material was not picking up. This year's sales through the depot reduced down from Rs. 70,000 to Rs. 60,000. Total production and sales of the society, however, were Rs. 1,20,227 and 1,57,479 respectively.

The government's decision of July 7, 1975 to include the development of handloom industry in the Prime Minister's 20 point programme to boost the national economy was welcomed by the society. Under this programme, it was visualized to impose a ban on the powerlooms to produce coloured sarees and encourage handlooms to exclusively produce Janata Dhoti (Peoples' Dhoti) and Janata Sari for weaker sections. The government of Maharashtra also decided to initiate four spearhead projects at suitable places, each involving a commonshed of 1000 handlooms. In addition, small handloom production centres consisting of 50 handlooms each were to be started in rural areas and applications were sought through a circular for creation of such centres. Accordingly the society had submitted an application for a centre at Vinchur equipped with all facilities.

1977-78

Raw material was bought mainly from the open market. The society was finding it difficult to keep its prices in line with those of the powerloom products. Wages of the weavers were fixed

taking into account the cost of living. Therefore, it was difficult to compete with powerlooms. The number of productive looms were decreasing day by day. Only 20-25 looms were in production and most of these were operated by old weavers. Economic viability of the society was eroding. The level of production came down again to Rs. 72,576. Accumulated losses amounted to Rs. 14,542. Dwindling number of looms also affected the profitability of the dyeing centre as it did not have enough work to do. Sales at the Nasik sales depot reduced further to Rs. 45,258. The society felt a need for door to door promotion to increase sale of the handloom goods. The chairman of the society became the member of the executive committee of the apex body at Solapur. He was successful in getting an interest-free special share capital of Rs. 38,000 from the government to revive the functioning of the society through a process of modernisation. A new workshed was constructed; new equipments, tools, and accessories were bought; old frame-looms were repaired; dyeing centre was upgraded; and in addition to traditional line of products, new products such as shirting material, towels, handkerchiefs, bedsheets, lungi, terecot cloth, etc. were introduced. In spite of this cooperation of the weavers not forthcoming, the chairman completed his 24th year of his dedicated service in spite of declining health.

1978-79

Mr. Nagu Mahadu Sarode, the Chairman of the society expired on February 27, 1979; and Mr. Raghunath Pandurang Ghavate who joined the Board of Directors in 1959 and became Vice-Chairman in 1973 for a period of one year, was elected as Chairman of the society.

Condition of the handloom industry was pitiable. Weavers were not available even in a new shed where 12 looms were fitted. Production picked up a little to Rs. 85,856. Total sales were Rs. 1,18,422 in which goods worth Rs. 46,481 were from other societies. Sales at the Nasik Sales Depot went further down to Rs. 37,550. Only one employee was looking after the depot and it was not possible for him to attend to all functions efficiently. Pressure was also building on the society to vacate the place in which the depot was housed. The number of looms under production was less than 25. It was feared that the society may not survive if this situation continued to prevail for long. It was not running into heavy losses because of the margin received on the sale of produce of other societies. The apex body agreed to allow the society to sell Janata sarees on credit. It also undertook production of handloom polyester cloth on experimental basis. It was contemplating further to produce polyester khadi out of the yarn made on the spinning wheel.

Homage was paid to the late chairman of the society, who in 1955 started spending his evening hours with oil lamp and the old records to rehabilitate a sick organization.

1981-82

The membership position by the end of June 1982 was as follows:

i) Total registered members	174
ii) Member not alive	82
iii) Members who left the village	30
iv) Members staying in village but not working on looms	35
v) Productive members	27

The number of productive members had been declining steadily since 1957-58. In 1957-58, there were 68 looms in operation; by 1981-82 hardly 27 looms were under production (Exhibit 1). Even in 1957, a substantial number of members were old and that explained for a large number of deaths in the subsequent years. Of the 30 weavers who left the village for better prospects, around 20 of them found jobs on powerlooms in Bhivandi, Malegaon, Igatpuri and Nasik. Powerlooms offered them more wages than the handloom.

There were 35 members who were staying in the village, but were not working on looms. Some of them were old and therefore were unable to work. Among others Shri and Shrimati Vibhute opened a cycle shop, Mrs. Divate became agricultural labourer, Shri Dhawan became a tamasha (local theatre) manager, Shri Pathan joined a local band as an instrument player, Shri Pinjari started manufacturing mattresses, Shri Bhagwat looked after his poultry, Shri Chaudhari

and Shri Sarode opened their hotels, Shri Mankar got service in a bank as a peon, Shri Rote became a tobacco dealer, Shri Pathan and Shri Gulzar opened their pan shops, Shri Dhawan became a school teacher, and Shri Chevale started selling sweets.

All of them were of the view that they were earning more than what they used to earn as handloom weavers. By continuously putting in eight hours of work a handloom weaver and his wife together hoped to earn a maximum of Rs. 10 per day (Exhibit 2). This was in sharp contrast with the earning of a skilled person like a carpenter, whose earnings in the 50's were equal to that of a weaver, and who presently earned Rs. 25 per day. Most of the weavers did not have agriculture as a supportive activity. Because of low earning activity, younger people were not entering into handloom industry. Most of the productive looms were manned by old weavers. In spite of low wages, they were working on looms because financially they were supported by their grown-up children and their own income was regarded as a bonus or the additional help to the family.

A weaver's son did not want to be a weaver. The weavers, who left their weaving skills behind, felt that people would go back to their looms if handlooms guaranteed them a regular income of Rs. 400 per month. Besides low wages, the uncertainty of work for weeks together was also a major problem. No merchant was willing to give any item of daily consumption costing more than 25 paise to weavers on credit.

1982-83

Most of the raw material was purchased on credit from the open market at higher prices. Total production this year was of Rs. 1,06,150, of which Rs. 62,559 were towards raw material, Rs. 15,054 as dyeing expenses, and Rs. 27,640 were given as wages for reeling and weaving. Total sales were Rs. 1,10,918 in which the material of other societies was worth Rs. 70,366. The society realized that in spite of all the facilities, the production was not getting up and therefore it depended for its income from the sale of sarees, towels, bedsheets, and carpets of other societies. It also began selling printed sarees made on powerlooms as these sarees suddenly became very popular among rural women. Other income, which contributed to its profitability, was from bank interest, dividends, commissions, and rent from its previous shed.

Exhibit - 1

Number of Productive Members of Vinchur Society 1957-58 to 1980-81

<u>Year</u>	<u>Productive Members</u>
1957-58	68
1958-59	59
1959-60	73
1960-61	66
1961-62	66
1964-65	55
1967-68	35
1968-69	30
1978-79	28
1980-81	27
1983-84	20

Exhibit - 2

Monthly Production and Earning Potential of a Young Weaver for any
Single Item of Production (Average Rate of Production: 8 Yards in
8 Hours)

Item	Monthly Production in units	Wage Rate per unit (Rs.)	Possible Earning per month (Rs.)
1. Baand Saree	24	11+1 ^{a/}	288
2. Bed Cover	80	3+0.50	280
3. Paatal Saree	20	12+1	260
4. Khadi cloth	180 yards	1.25+0.25	270
5. Towel	150	1	150

a/ includes weaving plus reeling charges.

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