

PROFILE OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN ICHALKARANJI

- **ABOUT ICHALKARANJI:**

Ichalkaranji was the capital of feudatory chief of Ichalkaranji Jahagir in Kolhapur state. In the year 1730 A.D. Chatrapati Shahu Maharaja of Satara granted Ichalkaranji village to Shrimant Vyankatrao Narayanra Ghorpade. Till the year 1949, it was under the control of Kolhapur state after which it is merged in the Bombay state.

The late Shrimant Narayanrao Babasahab Ghorpade, chief of Ichalkaranji in his regime gave importance to the establishment of handloom and power loom industries. In 1904 late Mr. Vitthalrao Datar installed first power loom at the outskirts of old *gaathan* of Ichalkaranji. On account of liberal policy of the Late Chief of Ichalkaranji, the weaving industry started developing in 1930-1940. Ichalkaranji Power Loom Association was formed in 1948. It is a historical place and place with industrial, commercial educational and religious importance. There are so many important places in the city such as Rajwada, Temple, Panchganga River, college; I.T. Park and Proposed film Industry etc. It is famous for wrestling and fine arts. This city is known as the 'Manchester' of Maharashtra.

The industrial estate provides a factory space of different sizes and common facilities like supply of electricity for lighting and power, water, drainage and easy access to road or rail. The small entrepreneurs can thus utilize their limited financial resources for the purchase of machinery and for the common facility centre organized by the small industries service institute, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India which is equipped with modern machinery and allowed to be used on payment of nominal charges.

- **The origin of the name of Ichalkaranji:**

It is supposed that Ichalkaranji has been founded in the first century A.D. At first there were seven hamlets. But some old people say that there were three villages: 1) Inchi, 2) Unchi, 3) Karanji. Later on these villages mixed into one single village named as 'Ichalkaranji'.

The second theory about the origin is that there was a part of a forest and there were trees of karanji on a large scale and the name of the village derived from Inch. From this the name Ichalkaranji might have come into existence.

- **The administrative set-up:**

The civic administration is governed by Municipality, which was first established on 1st September 1893. Up to 1927 i.e. for 34 years the members by the government governed the municipality. The total area under the jurisdiction of original municipal council is 2038 hectare. Due to acute shortage of land and developments outside old municipal limit, the limits of the municipal council were extended in 1983 mainly to accommodate migrated population as well as population which would be highly inflated within the old limits. In extended limits area of 539 Hectares of Shahapur Village and 175 Hectares of Kabnoor village is included. Now the total area of Ichalkaranji Municipal Council is 2752 Hectares, which is divided into 25 wards for administration and 57 wards for election purpose.

- **Location of study region:**

Ichalkaranji city is situated on latitude of 16° 42' 25" North and longitude of 74° 27' 32" East and this city is situated at an altitude of 556 meter above the mean sea level. Ichalkaranji city is situated at about 29 km. away to the South East of Kolhapur and 26 km away to the south west of Sangli. Ichalkaranji is linked by road to Nipani and Chikodi towns of Karnataka state.

- **Railway route:**

Ichalkaranji city is situated in the middle of Kolhapur and Miraj railway line. It is 9.5 kms from south of the Hatkanangale railway station which is Taluka place. Ichalkaranji city is 29 kms away from Kolhapur railway station.

- **Drainage:**

The Ichalkaranji town is situated in the filled up valley of river Panchganga. The city lies on the left bank of Panchganga River. It is about 1.6 km. to the south of the river.

- **Climate:**

The climate of Ichalkaranji city is characterized by different climate conditions. During the summer season (February to May) it is hot, during rainy season (June to September) it is wet and during the winter season (October to January) it is cold.

The range of temperature between maximum and minimum is comparatively small. The maximum temperature in hot season is 40⁰c or above and minimum temperature in cold season rarely falls below 10⁰c.

The town Ichalkaranji being situated in the rain shadow area has a moderate rainfall and has dry and salubrious climate. The annual average rainfall of last year is 721 mm.

Table No.1
Ichalkaranji Annual Average Climate, 2018

Sr. No.	Month	Temperature (⁰ C)	Rainfall (mm)	Humidity (%)
1	January	22.6	0	38
2	February	24.4	1	29
3	March	27.3	7	34
4	April	29.5	34	36
5	May	29.5	68	52
6	June	26.3	73	73
7	July	24.3	182	82
8	August	24	105	84
9	September	24.7	98	77
10	October	25.3	108	56
11	November	23.5	35	51
12	December	22.4	10	49

(Source: en.climate-data.org)

- **Growth and trend of urban population:**

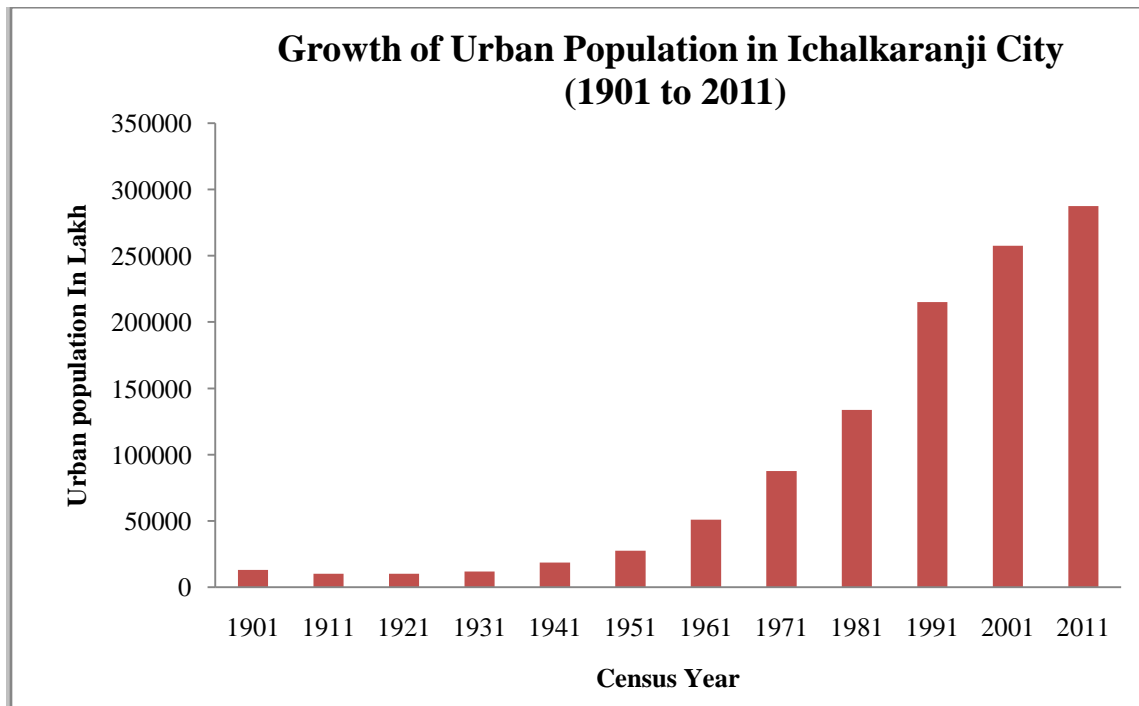
There has been a steady increase in the size of urban population in the country since Independence. A study of the urbanization process since the beginning of this century reveals a significant increase in the size of its urban population, the level of urbanization since 1921, and a rapid rise since 1951 from 1951 to 2001. In Ichalkaranji, urban population was more than ninth from 27423 to 257610. The proportion of the population living in urban areas increased from 12920 persons in 1901 to 257610 person in 2001. The annual growth rate of the urban population during 1991-2001 was about 1.9 per cent. The decadal growth rate of the urban population during 1991-2001 was about 42660. The decadal growth rate of the urban population during 1991-2001 was about 19.85 per cent.

Table No. 2
Ichalkaranji City: Growth of Urban Population (1901-2011)

Sr. No.	Census Year	Growth of Urban Population
1	1901	12920
2	1911	10239
3	1921	10211
4	1931	11904
5	1941	18574
6	1951	27423
7	1961	50978
8	1971	87731
9	1981	133751
10	1991	214950
11	2001	257610
12	2011	287570

(Source: District census Handbook, Kolhapur, 1951 to 2001)

Graph No. 1



(Source: Compiled by researcher)

In the census 1991, the population was 214950 and it grew by 257610 persons in the year 2001. In recent years the expansion of the city limit brought the two important places - some parts of the eastern Kabnoor and Shahapur with population 26885 which are included in Ichalkaranji city. Its population reached to 257610. During the period 1901-1911 due to several epidemics the growth rate of population was negative. During the census year, the percentage of annual growth rate was very high because of development of power loom industries and immigration of labour from U.P., Bihar, Gujarat and other states of India so that the rate of urbanization increased.

- **TEXTILE INDUSTRY:**

Ichalkaranji was well-known for cotton poplin, dhoti, and cotton saris, before 1980. In mid-1980s, weavers of the city started producing denim, canvas, chiffon, and fabric for school uniforms (khaki drill). Fabrics such as seersucker, Oxford, herringbone, rip stop, chambray, tweed, and twill made in or around the Ichalkaranji city and used by many domestic and international fashion brands such as Raymond India, Armani, Banana Republic, Hugo Boss, and Paul Smith.

The availability of a qualified workforce and the level of technical knowledge and easy accessibility to finest weavers of Ichalkaranji for out-sourcing and over all good social environment among the factors are influenced Italian textile major Tessitura Monty, Turkish textile maker 'Soktas', Bombay Rayon Fashions Ltd (BRFL), Raymond Zambaiti Ltd (A joint venture of Raymond's Ltd and internationally renowned Cotonificio Honegger S.P.A ,part of Gruppo Zambaiti), world famous German Men's wear brands Liebe, Boys R Bad and Looty etc.

The first Co-operative Spinning Mill in Asia, i.e. the Deccan Co-operative Spinning Mill Ltd. came into existence in Ichalkaranji in the year 1962. As of 2010 over 20 modern spinning mills in the region came into existence and formed one of the major centres for spinning mills in India. Some of these spinning mills are 100 per cent Export Oriented Units of Cotton Yarn.

- **DEVELOPMENT OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY AT ICHALKARANJI:**

Similarly any industrial town, Ichalkaranji has a long history of its own. Ichalkaranji had got a tradition of weaving industry long before 1845. The record shows that in 1845 AD in Hatkanagale tehsil of Kolhapur district there were 636 handlooms of which 236 handlooms were in Ichalkaranji town. In this connection it is also necessary to consider another survey made 1882, there were 3120 total number of weaving looms and of these 688 were in Alate, 654 in Gadhinglaj, 422 in Karveer, 397 in Shirol, 350 in Ichalkaranji, 236 in Panhala, 197 in Kagal, 86 in Bhudargad; 58 in Bavada and 32 in Vishalgad Gajapur, Besides these 17 loom were in Kolhapur. All factories weaved all sorts of cloth including towel and table cloths.

For meeting the increasing demand for cloth N. Babasaheb Ghorapade again greatly patronized and encouraged the people to install the power loom, a first trail in India. As a result, some people of skill, courage, and fertile imagination came forward, and started the era of power loom. Among these 'Late Vittalravaji Datar' the first person who came forward with great pioneering zeal and established his, 'Venktesh Rang Tantu Mills' with a single power loom in 1904. In fact, he is rightly called 'The Father of Ichalkaranji power loom weaving industry' many other subordinate industrialists also entered the industry and took an active part in the development of power loom weaving industry.

The power loom town of Ichalkaranji is recognized as 'Manchester of South Maharashtra. In spite of the unavailability of parts, railway, Airport, favorable climatic condition and facilities of ready market for the produced cloth, it emerged as one of the leading power loom centers in the country. Ichalkaranji town may have derived its inspiration from Manchester, as the textile town as Late N. Babasaheb Ghorpade had visited during his tour to Britain. Ichalkaranji However is far different from Manchester with which it had been commonly compared. Neither the town has railway station, nor was a harbor, even the climatic condition at the town not favorable even though Ichalkaranji had a number of points of comparison with Manchester. In Manchester the English Co-operative movement was founded in 1844 and established free trade. The same was the case with Ichalkaranji where even before Independence co-operative movement was established by the great visionary ruler and co-operative commercial centers were founded with a view to assisting the weavers, yarn merchants, cloth merchants, processors, cloth growers etc. similarly like Manchester, the city produced cloth and raw polyesters.

During the British period it has gained importance as a weaving centre. This town had got tradition of weaving industry long before 1845. When one finds out the information about weaving industry at Ichalkaranji, at the time there was nothing unique about the weaving industry at Ichalkaranji. In 1882 there were 3102 total number of weaving looms in Kolhapur state. Out of these looms only 350 looms were in this town. The Jahagirdar Narayan Babasaheb was installed on the Gadi (throne). Due to this leadership and patronage, Ichalkaranji became an important power loom and weaving centre in Maharashtra. So it is known as the Manchester of Maharashtra. During the period 1882 to 1892, it was only one place in Kolhapur state which had maximum looms. The number of looms working on cotton in Ichalkaranji Jaghir had increased from the 337 in 1882 to 447 by 1895.

The report shows a great hope by stating that Ichalkaranji had dry climate, large population, weekly (Market) bazaar day, a big trade and Nagari co-operative path Sanstha's which have a good financial credit. There are also some agricultural and non-agricultural credit societies in it.

The textile towns of Ichalkaranji is situated on the bank of the river Panchganga. The town was developed on the proper lines by Naro Mahadeo, the Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji,”

who had received the town as “inam” from Ghorpade the Senapati of Kapasi for the unique services. The Brahmin had rendered to him, although his family name was “Joshi” he changed it to “Ghorpade”, in honor of his master. Following are some important points from the view point of textile industry in Ichalkaranji city.

- First Power loom was installed by Late Mr. Vittalrao Datar in 1904.
- Ichalkaranji power loom Weavers Association was formed 1948.
- Laxmi Co-operative Process was started in 1957.
- Deccan Co-operative Spinning mill was started in 1962.
- Yashwant Co-operative Process was started 1963.
- Ichalkaranji Janata Sahakari Soot Girani was started in 1963.
- Kolhapur Zilha Shetkari Vinkari Sahakari Soot Girni was started in 1964.
- Ichalkaranji Co-operative Spinning Mills was started in 1974.
- Nav-Maharashtra Sahakari Soot Girani was started in 1986.
- Laxmi Sahakari Audyogik Vasahat was set up in 1986.
- Indira Gandhi Mahila Soot Girni was started in 1998.
- Ichalkaranji Textile Cluster has been developed under IIUS scheme promoted by Government of India in 2005.
- 2011- Center of Excellence In Nonwoven
- 2012 - Ichalkaranji Garment cluster

• **STRUCTURE AND COMPOSTION OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY:**

The Power loom town of Ichalkaranji drew up the jobless, landless, common workers attributions, enterprising people who rushed to the town to make their wealth. The main cause for the growth of population in the town is the power loom industry which attracted people from the neighboring areas and villages in the vicinity of the town. The local industry was attracted first of all with weaving activities only with the increase in number of textile industry preparatory processing such as winding, warping, sizing, dyeing, printing, finished and packaging also have been started locally which together have framed the structure and composition of textile industry of Ichalkaranji.

Before 1980, Ichalkaranji was famous for cotton poplin, dhoti, and cotton saris. In mid-1980s, weavers of the city started producing denim, canvas, chiffon, and fabric for

school uniforms (khaki drill). Fabrics such as Seersucker, Oxford, Herringbone, Rip stop, Chambray, Tweed, and Twill made in or around the Ichalkaranji city and used by many domestic and international fashion brands such as Raymond India, Armani, Banana Republic, Hugo Boss, and Paul Smith.

- **Spinning Mills:**

The availability of yarn at right quantity at right time and at right price plays an important role for the growth of textile industry Ichalkaranji. It is known for co-operative movement, for ritualizing the future growth of textile industry some eminent leaders came forward and established the spinning mills. In 1962 the Deccan Co-operative Spinning Mill Ltd. came into existence in Ichalkaranji which was the first Co-operative Spinning Mill in Asia. As of 2011 over 20 modern spinning mills in the region came into existence and formed one of the major centers for spinning mills in India. Some of these spinning mills are 100 percent Export Oriented Units of Cotton Yarn.

- **Sizing and Winding Units :**

Weaving activity entirely depends upon winding and sizing units for the supply sized beam. In sizing units warp yarn is filled up on the weavers beam which become ready for weaving before this is done the warp yarn has to undergo a process of winding to be fit for sizing. In fact sizing is considered as supplementary to weaving one sized beams lasts for two three weeks for a power loom depending up on the quantity and quality of yarn used on sizing beams. In Ichalkaranji there are 150 sizing units and 170 winding units providing employment to about 4000 workers. Yarn sizing is a preparatory process before weaving. This process gives strength to yarn. Ichalkaranji has approximately 150 sizing units, working 24 hours a day, 6 days in a week.

- **Processing Units:**

The grey cloth weaving on the looms has less consumer appeal and above all weaving is not the end process in itself. Therefore the grey cloth woven on the looms must undergo a series of processing; State to be ready for final sale textile processing involves designing, bleaching etc. which are based upon certain well defined chemical fundamental and physic – chemical principles.

Coarse cloth is produced in Ichalkaranji. In the past grey cloth was used to sent to Bombay for processing and then for sale this involves huge transportation cost and more

time also naturally the need for processing was self. Accordingly proper move was made in this direction to start the processing house on co-operative basis in Ichalkaranji itself as a result the Yashwant Co-Operative Processors limited was established in 1962.

In Ichalkaranji at present there exist 68 processing houses. It is estimated that about 23 lakh meters of cloth is processed every day. About 10000 workers are working in these processing houses.

- **Dyeing and printing Units:**

Dyeing and printing is the last process in textile manufacturing giving colour to the cloth and then printing various designs on it taking into account consumers fashions and choice. It plays a very significant role as it gives the cloth marketing appeal to the ultimate consumers. Coloring and printing to the cloth and printed designs there on will not wash away either in foundries or to an open light when exposed to it in Ichalkaranji.

- **Foundries:**

In the past power looms were purchased from Ahmadabad, Bombay, Bangalore, Gwalior, Belgium, Sangli etc. but acquiring looms from long distance places was costing due to transportation cost octroi charges etc. It also involves a long waiting period. As a result some foundries have started to manufacture the Power loom and its allied industrial parts.

- **SPARE PARTS FOR TEXTILE INDUSTRY:**

The major spare parts and textile machinery used for power loom industry are bobbins, reeds, spindles tongues , shuttle, beams nails, cables ,screws, nut bolts , bearing ,gears ,spinning mills , parts ,processing machinery, humidity firers, electric motors, electric equipments and chains etc . Spare parts and other textile manufacturing purchase from the states of Gujarat, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh for power loom industry in Ichalkaranji.

- **GROWTH OF HANDLOOMS (1845 TO 1981):**

Ichalkaranji is the biggest centre which possesses the largest number of looms of the total number of persons engaged in hand-loom weaving in 1957, 889 are independent workers and 3,000 are engaged on daily wages.

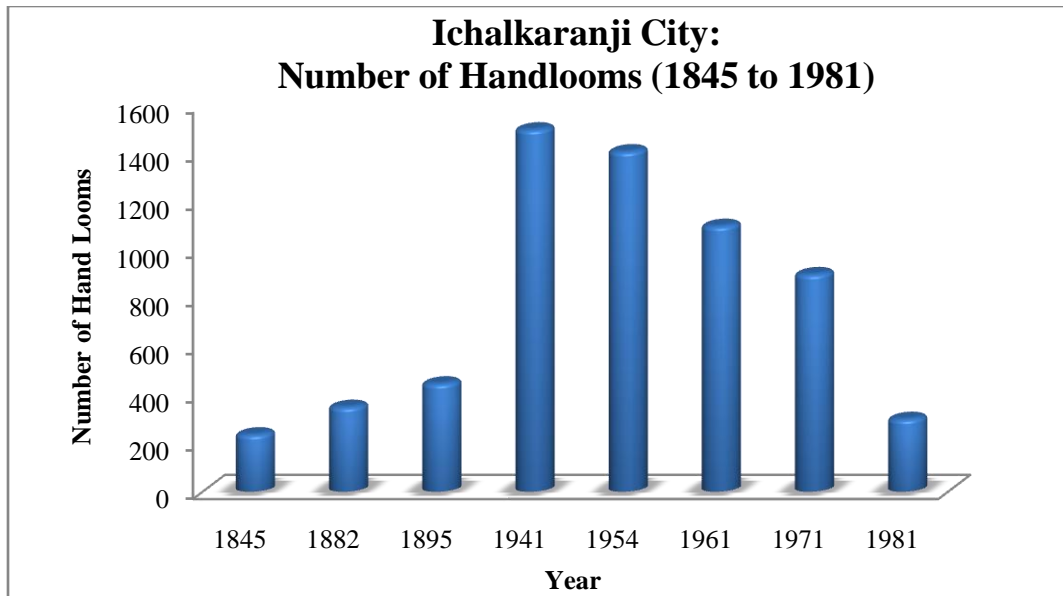
Besides this large-scale textile unit, there were in 1953-54, 150 power loom factories in the district which were mostly located at Ichalkaranji. About 1,590 power-looms were working in them. The first power-loom factory was started in 1928. During the thirties and forties of these centuries, this industry was greatly expanded as a result of the encouragement and concessions granted to it by the Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji, a Jahagir of the Kolhapur State. It was during this period that many hand-looms were converted into power-looms. The industry was further expanded during the Second World War, when many Marwari Commission Agents rendered financial assistance to artisans working on handlooms to facilitate the conversion from hand-looms to power-looms. Availability of skilled labour was another factor which helped in the expansion of the industry. Out of the 150 power-loom factories existing in the district in 1953-54, 59 were registered under the Factories Act. Fifty-five, out of 59 factories registered under the Factories Act, were located at Ichalkaranji, two at Kolhapur and one each at Kurundwad and Valivada. The total numbers of looms in all 150 factories were 1831 and in factories registered under the Factories Act, 1372 and other information growth of handlooms in table No. 3.10.

Table No. 3
Ichalkaranji City: Growth of Handlooms (1845 – 1981)

Sr. No.	Year	No. of Handlooms	Growth Rate of Handlooms (in %)
1	1845	236	--
2	1882	350	48.31
3	1895	447	27.71
4	1941	1500	235.57
5	1954	1409	-6.07
6	1961	1100	-21.93
7	1971	900	-18.18
8	1981	300	-66.66

(Source: Textile Department, Government of Maharashtra)

Graph No. 2



(Source: Compiled by researcher)

The above graph shows the number of handlooms in Ichalkaranji from the year 1845 to 1981. The growth rate increased in the year 1941 and slowly decreased up to the year 1981.

- **GROWTH OF POWER LOOM INDUSTRY AND THEIR WORKERS:**

Ichalkaranji has got a tradition of weaving industry long before 1845. The record shows that in 1845 A.D. in Hatkanangale Taluka of Kolhapur District there was 636 hand looms of which 236 handlooms were in Ichalkaranji itself.

In the year 1845, the population of Ichalkaranji was 7152 and in common with other dependencies of present state (Kolhapur) “The population was agricultural, the manufacturers lying restricted to a few “cambler” and cotton cloth some of which were exported”. By 1882 these were 3102 total number of weaving looms and of these 688 were in Aite 654 in Gadhinglaji 422 in Karveer, 397 in Shirol, 350 in Ichalkaranji, 236 in Panhala, 179 in Kagal, 86 in Bhudargad, 58 in Bavada and 32 in Vishalgad. Besides These 17 loom in Kolhapur Jail factory weaved all sort of clothes including towels and table cloths” Thus, by 1882 A.D. Ichalkaranji with 350 handlooms was ranked fifth out of ten places though it had larger of looms than most of other places in Kolhapur State. After receiving the mandates of the Ichalkaranji Jahangir in 1892 late Narayanrao Ghorpade all

the age of twenty two shook the wheel of industrialization and it become an important power loom weaving centre and later known as “Manchester South Maharashtra”

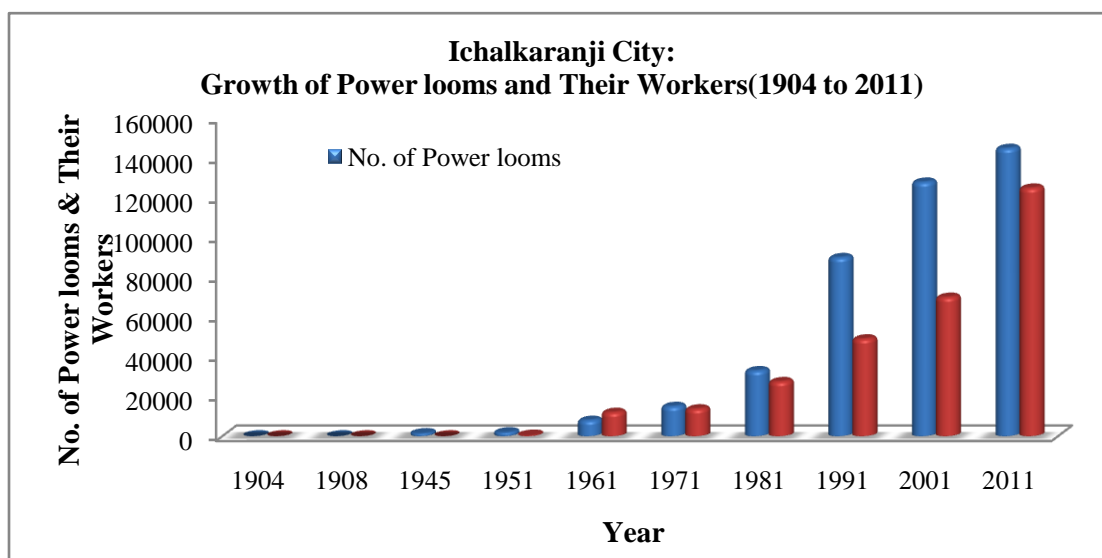
Taking into consideration the growth of industries in the city during 1951 to 2011, it is found that during 1951 to 1961 the industrialization increased 4 times, during the 20 years period from 1961 to 1981, industrialization increased three times, during the period from 1981 to 2001 The number of industries increased 5 times. The reason behind this growth was grants of semi Government finance assistance and the large number of human resource, irrigation and transportation etc.

Table No. 4
Ichalkaranji City: Growth of Power Looms and their Workers

Sr. No.	Year	No. of Power looms	Growth Rate of Power looms	No. of Power loom Workers	Growth Rate of Power loom Workers
1	1904	01	--	N.A.	--
2	1908	02	--	N.A.	--
3	1945	1500	--	N.A.	--
4	1951	2000	33.33	500	--
5	1961	8000	300	12000	2300
6	1971	15000	87.50	13750	14.58
7	1981	33000	120.00	27500	100
8	1991	90000	172.72	49000	78.18
9	2001	128000	42.22	70000	42.86
10	2011	145000	13.28	125000	78.57

(Source: Compiled by Researcher)

Graph No. 3.3



(Source: Compiled by Researcher)

The above graph shows the growth of power-loom and their workers from the year 1904 to 2011. Before independence i.e. from the year 1904 to 1950 there was non growth of power-loom. The reason for non growth in before independence period was rule of British government. After independence the power-loom showed growth because the planning period started from 1951 to 1990. After 1991, due to liberalization, privatization and globalization the power-loom and their workers showed increasing growth rate.

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