

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON THE
SURVEY OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES IN
BENGAL FOR THE DISTRICTS OF MYMEN-
SINGH, MADIA AND FARIDPUR.

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Department of Industries, Bengal

**Supplementary Report on the
Survey of Cottage Industries
in Bengal**

 For the Districts of
Mymensingh, Nadia and Faridpur

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SUPPLEMENT TO THE REPORT ON THE SURVEY OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES IN BENGAL.

DACCA DIVISION—SUPPLEMENTARY.

For **Dacca District**—vide pages 45 to 64 of the
Original Report.

MYMENSINGH DISTRICT.

Cotton weaving.

Cotton weaving is carried on in a large scale in Bajitpur and at other places in the Tangail subdivision and Bajitpur in the Kishoreganj subdivision. In both these places very fine *chadars*, *dhutis*, *saris* and other cloths are manufactured by handlooms. Recently the output of such cloths have increased a good deal owing to a large demand being made for them by neighbouring districts. The popularity of these cloths is due to the fact that they are fine and look well. The Bajitpur weavers use 120 to 250 counts of yarn for fine cloths. The time taken for setting up the warp is generally 3 days. Women and children do this work. They work the looms almost the whole day, *i.e.*, from morning till noon and from 2 or 3 P.M. till evening. Sometimes they work at night also. The women and children prepare the thread and set up the warps. In the Kishoreganj subdivision the weavers dispose of the finished articles themselves, and do not employ any middleman. The profit varies from annas eight to Rs. 2 per piece. There is also a co-operative society of the weavers at Bajitpur (Kishoreganj). Some of the weavers have now taken to fly-shuttle looms. The fly-shuttle looms are repaired by carpenters. The weavers use foreign imported yarn which they purchase in the open market.

The weaving of fine cloth is carried on by the Tanti or Bysack weavers in many localities among which Bajitpur may be specially mentioned.

Owing to the abnormal increase in the price of cloth many weavers, who were otherwise engaged, *e.g.*, in cultivation, have turned their attention to weaving, and the introduction of fly-shuttle looms among the weavers has also lent to the increased production of cloth.

There are at present three classes of weaving, *viz.*, coarse, medium and fine. The Nath and Jugi classes mostly weave coarse cloth. The Karikar and the Zola class does the medium weaving while fine weaving is carried on solely by the Tanti or Bysack weavers. The yarn used by these three classes ranges between 10 to 300 counts.

The yarn market is not a steady one, and the price fluctuates with the demand. The chief markets for the purchase of such yarns are Dacca, Bhairab and Mymensingh.

The chief weaving centres in Mymensingh are:—

Kishoreganj subdivision.—Bhatgaon, Katiarchur, Barapara and Satal in police-stations Kishoreganj, Nitarkandi, Bhagalpur and Dilalpur in police-station Bajitpur.

Tangail subdivision.—Bajitpur, Bhatikura, Nalshonda, Pathrail and Banniafoir.

In the Tangail subdivision the weavers get the supply of yarn in two ways:—

- (1) directly through the merchants;
- (2) through the *mahajans*.

Those who work independently, *i.e.*, buy and sell at their discretion, purchase yarn directly from the yarn merchants at the local market or at the outlying *hâts*. They are somewhat better off than their brother weavers who cannot carry on their profession independently for want of capital. These weavers get the supply of yarn from *mahajans* at prices somewhat higher than those prevailing in the market. Consequently they cannot make much profit by selling their products in the open market. They are therefore obliged to make over their products to the *mahajans*.

With a capital of Rs. 70 a weaver can earn from Rs. 15 to Rs. 30 a month according to his ability and to the nature of the looms. A fly-shuttle loom costs from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 and lasts from 15 to 20 years. The primitive looms on the other hand cost about Rs. 5 each and are handed down from father to son. In the Netrakona subdivision the weaving industry is mostly confined to the Garos who make their own yarn of cotton grown in the hills. The principal market for cotton is in the Garo hills. The cloth made are generally 5 or 6 cubits long and 2 cubits wide and it takes generally 10 or 12 hours to make one. They are made for home consumption and is not offered for sale.

In the Jamalpore subdivision *gamchas* for local use are made in Madarganj police-station and the industry is limited to a few families.

Indigo dyeing is carried on at Tangail by some Muhammadan dyers. They cannot make any black or red dyes. Indigo-dyed yarn is used in *saris*, *dhutis*, *lungis* and mosquito-curtains, etc. No other dyes except indigo is used to any appreciable extent. In the Kishoreganj subdivision they dye the yarn by the pigments purchased from the markets and purchase dyed yarn also.

To improve this industry I would suggest that the Co-operative Department should start industrial societies among the weavers in every large centre. Such societies have to be carefully nursed in the beginning and when they begin to make some progress it becomes necessary for some intelligent body to help them in getting yarn and selling their cloth. The weavers are so illiterate that they cannot write to a mill or merchant for yarn nor do they know where the articles can be had at a cheaper rate. It therefore devolves on the society to correspond on their behalf and to get them yarn. Then again if the cloths do not sell quickly the weavers shall have to starve. It, therefore, becomes necessary for the society to either find a market or to take the cloth over and stock it for future sale, and then advance further money or yarn to the actual workers.

In short we cannot secure the profits to the workmen unless the middlemen are eliminated and unless the Co-operative Department will undertake the work that the *bepari* does and take the risks which he takes.

The Indian Industrial Commission in paragraph 144 of their report stated:—

“The problem is to find an outlet for the weavers’ increased production and efforts to improve the lot of the handloom weaver must end in failure, unless attention is concentrated to a much larger extent than has hitherto been usual on commercial questions which involve the purchase of raw materials, the selection of suitable designs and patterns and the establishment of commercial agencies for the disposal of goods.”

Rope and string-making.

This industry is carried on in the district of Mymensingh by a class of men known as Kapalis. These people twist jute twine by hand and weave gunny cloth. Having regard to the fact that almost every cultivator in East Bengal produces jute, one can easily imagine what a great potentiality there is in this industry. There is no caste prejudice against this industry. Formerly in the Mymensingh district jute strings and ropes were used and manufactured, but cocoanut coir ropes and strings which are imported from outside have displaced them altogether. Hemp strings and ropes are largely manufactured at Bhairab and in the neighbouring *chur* lands. The dragging ropes (*Goon*) of boats are made on the Megna side and near Sadakpur and Lundia and Khalapara in the Kishoreganj subdivision. The place is locally known as Goonghat. In the Tangail subdivision ropes are made on a small scale for binding the bales of jute. The ropes are generally 1 inch thick and 50 cubits in length. Two men can prepare 50 lengths in one day. About 1½ seers of jute are required for each length. The wages paid for rope-making varies from Re. 1-9 to Re. 1-2 per 100 length. Children also assist in this work.

Dairy produce.

The so-called Dacca cheese is made on the bank of the Dhanu at Itna in the Kishoreganj subdivision. It is a seasonal industry and the cheese is exported in large quantities. It is a kind of hard cream cheese, made in balls like the common Dutch variety. It is not unpleasent in taste. During the cheese-making season the people from Dacca who know cheese-making flock there and stay till the season is over. Local men do not know the process of manufacture.

Biscuit and loaf-making.

Biscuit and loaf-making is done in the Kishoreganj police-station. It is done by the Hindus. They do not use any machine for kneading flour and do the work by hand and ladle. The *outturn* is not of a high class but it is good enough for common use.

Book-binding.

Book-binding is done by two families of dufftries at Kishoreganj. There are also two book-binding shops at Sherpur and three or four in Jamalpur (Sadar). The rise in price of pasteboards and marble-papers greatly affected their business.

Aerated water concerns.

There are some small establishments for manufacturing soda water and lemonade in the town of Mymensingh. There is not much demand for locally-manufactured waters as they turn out bad stuff. Aerated water is also manufactured at Bajitpur and Kishoreganj.

Carpentry.

In the Kishoreganj subdivision Bajitpur carpenters are famous for work in wood. They make good engravings. The *kurani*, bedsteads, chairs, etc., are examples of good work of high quality. They also prepare various fancy looking articles of wood, e.g., spectacle-cases, clock-brackets, teapots, etc. They exhibit very fine workmanship which with a little training may be made to compete elsewhere. The work is done by several families and is carried on for generations. *Hooka* tubes are also manufactured here and in Austogram police-station.

Copper and bell-metal industry.

There is no copper manufacture in this district. In the Jamalpore subdivision Islampur is famous for bell-metal utensils. Some 25 persons are engaged in this trade. In Sherpur police-station there are three or four shops where these utensils are made. The articles are very heavy and hence very costly. Bell-metal dishes, plates, cups and glasses and other utensils are proverbial in Islampur, in Jamalpur subdivision, and at Kagmari, in the Tangail subdivision. In Islampur police-station the average monthly earning of a skilled labourer is from Rs. 16 to Rs. 20. The manufactured articles in these places command large sales even in distant parts of the province. The composition of alloy is a trade secret with them and is not divulged to others. The Islampur and Kagmari articles are superior in quality, art and workmanship and can well compete with the articles made at Khagra, in Murshidabad. In the Kishoreganj subdivision there is no extensive work done in brass, copper and bell-metal, but in Hossainpur, Kishoreganj, Bajitpur and Bhairab police-stations a few persons do repairs and renovate old wares.

Tailoring.

Tailoring is carried on at the following places in the Kishoreganj subdivision:—(1) Kishoreganj, (2) Hossainpur, (3) Karimganj, (4) Bajitpur and (5) Bhairab.

People get their supply from the above places. The master tailor and workman are one and the same person, who, with the members of his family and relatives, work together. Some employ workers who receive a monthly pay of Rs. 10 to Rs. 25. The members of a family divide the profit. The tailor receives order, purchases cloths, and the workmen are employed in cutting and sewing. The master is generally also a good cutter.

Pottery.

Pottery is an ordinary industry carried on by a class of people called Kumars found almost everywhere in the district. In the Kishoreganj subdivision pottery is extensive in Austogram. Some of them in addition to *handis*, *saras*, etc., makes rings for wells. A few families in the Katiarchar police-station know a little of salt glazing and they make beautiful dolls and idols. Some potters manufacture *boiyums* of different sizes. They are sold mostly at Kishoreganj. A few boats come from Dacca and Narainganj up the Megna and Dhanu rivers and they sell their articles by the amount of paddy they can each contain. In the Netrakona subdivision, owing to the quality of the soil, the potters cannot make durable wares and they therefore cannot compete with the articles brought in large quantities from Dacca. In the Tangail subdivision the potters of Bashail are adepts in turning out human figures, images of gods and goddesses in clay.

Pearl-fishing.

Pearl-fishing is done by a class of people known as Badias. They live in boats and go along the banks of the Megna river collecting oysters. They do not dive in water to get them. There is no systematic organisation for the purpose. A few families of Badias are settled in Dilalpur, Sadakpur, Austogram, Nikli and Bangalpara in the Kishoreganj subdivision. There are local *johuries* who purchase the pearls from those who get them on shores. They fix the price and export them to Calcutta.

Basket-making.

There is no organised business in basket-making but cane baskets are largely manufactured by Garos and other people almost all over the northern part of the district. The texture of old-fashioned cane *pataries* (serve the purpose of a steel trunk) of Sherpur in the Mymensingh district bear testimony to the skill of the workers. In the Tangail subdivision basket-making is carried on a somewhat elaborate scale at Baghil and Banniafoir. There is considerable demand for split bamboo mats which are prepared among others by the *Domes* near Saya. In the Kishoreganj subdivision no cane baskets or *dhamas* are prepared but *doles* used for storing paddy and rice are made by the cultivators with strips of bamboo woven in the nature of mats. They are sold in bigger *hâts*, e.g., Karimganj, Kathiadi, Hossainpur, Kishoreganj, Bajitpur and Bhairab. Every cultivator in the Netrakona and

Jamalpur subdivisions knows something of basket-making. They also make their own fishing traps. If the labour is organised and the manufacturers are given an opportunity they can make baskets of any shape and model to order. What is needed is encouragement and the finding of a market for them.

Sugar.

Sugarcane cultivation is done extensively by individual cultivators. The sugar is of a crude kind, yellowish in colour, and retains the smell of sugar-juice in it. The molasses is filled in a gunny bag which is tied tight. The bag is then squeezed between two bamboos and the fluid portion is thus extracted. This sugar is consumed locally. Sugar is also made from sugarcane juice to a great extent in Jamalpur police-station in the Jamalpur subdivision. This sugar is sold at Rs. 8 per maund.

Match.

In the Mymensingh district safety matches are manufactured by the following firms:—

- (1) Sarat Karkhana, Netrakhona;
- (2) Bangalpara Match Factory, Kishoreganj;
- (3) Austogram Match Factory, Kishoreganj;
- (4) Kalachand Shilpagar, Mymensingh; and
- (5) Prasunna Match Factory, Mymensingh.

All of them use hand machines devised by Dr. Nandi, of Comilla, and they all use woods locally known as Chhaitan, Kadan, Debdaru, Simul, Pailamandar, etc.

The present match-making industry under the cottage system cannot stand competition with the imported matches; the reason being (1) wrong choice of factory site and unsuitable wood; (2) absence of expert advice and (3) price of chemicals used in the match factory being dearer in India than in other match-making countries.

It has been found that for the purpose of the manufacture of matches it is necessary that the wood should be easy to split and at the same time elastic and strong enough not to break in splitting or in bending to make the boxes and for matches it is also necessary that it should continue to burn steadily with a flame when ignited.

The manufacture of safety matches consists of principally the following process, namely, (a) manufacture of wood-wire, (b) paraffining and dipping of wood-wire, (c) manufacture of match boxes, and (d) filling and coating of the boxes and lastly the packing of the boxes and labelling.

The Sarat Karkhana at Netrakona used to do the pasting work on the contract system, but as the work turned out was not in accordance with their satisfaction they have now employed two whole-time men for the purpose and the work of pasting, etc., is now done at the factory.

There is a drying chamber for drying the sticks during the rains at the Austogram match factory, Kishoreganj, and also at the Sarat Karkhana at Netrakona. The total number of persons employed in

this industry is about 50 and the average monthly outturn of each factory is about 60 gross and they are sold at Rs. 2-10 (wholesale) per gross and retail $1\frac{1}{2}$ pice per box of matches. The average daily cost of production is Rs. 6 and the profit appears to be about Rs. 2. None of these factories work regularly throughout the year.

Manufacture of iron implements and tools.

Blacksmiths' shops are spread all over the district. They make *daos*, sickles, axes, shovels, plough-shares, spades, etc., for domestic use. Generally they are made to order. Iron and steel are purchased in the local market. Often the raw material required is supplied by the person who orders the articles in the shape of broken and unserviceable old articles. They can supply them at a rate cheaper than that of the finished and imported products. In the Kishoreganj subdivision the good polish and finish of *daos* and *bathidaos* made of steel are in no way inferior to imported articles.

NADIA DISTRICT.

Cotton Weaving.

The main centres of the industry in the district are:—

Meherpur police-station.—Meherpur, Perojpur, Maniknagar and Kola Dafferpur.

Karimpur police-station.—Natua, Jamsheerpur, Dhoradah and Shikarpur.

Damurhuda police-station.—Kurulgachi, Damurhuda, Jagannathpur and Bhairabnagar.

Sadar subdivision.—Chapra and Ranaband.

The largest number of Muhammadan weavers, called Jolas, who make coarse cloth and *gamchas*, are to be found in Kusthea and Kumar-khali where this industry is in a flourishing condition.

The chief centre of fine cotton weaving is Santipur. This place is noted for its beautifully ornamented *dhutis* and *saries* which are made from imported yarns of fine counts.

Some weaving is also done at Joshra in Chakdah town and also at Nabadwip where some 40 to 45 families of weavers are engaged in making coarse cloth and *gamchas*. All of them use pit looms.

There is a weaving factory at Bhabanipur in the Kushtea subdivision with 12 looms belonging to Munshi Mokharuddin Khan, Secretary to the Bhabanipur Co-operative Bank.

There is a Mission School at Chapra where the local people under the guidance of Christian Missionaries have learnt to weave a variety of cloths, viz., thick napkins, dusters, bed-sheets, etc.

Foreign yarn of 20 to 40 counts are generally used by the weavers of the Meherpur subdivision. Yarns are locally purchased at Perojpur, Natua and Palashpara at Rs. 13-4 to Rs. 15-4 per bundle of

10 lbs. and that of 40 counts at Rs. 22-8 per bundle. At Santipur, in the Ranaghat subdivision, the weavers generally use yarns of 70 to 100 counts although some use the finer yarns, viz., 140 to 200 counts.

The weavers of the Kushtea subdivision make *lungis*, small *saris*, striped *chadars*, locally known as *gantis* and *gamchas*, etc. A number of persons of this subdivision have taken to dyeing as a profession. Indigo dyeing is the speciality of these dyers. Their charges vary from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per bundle of yarn of 10 lbs. according to the shade of colour required. These dyed yarns are exported to Dacca, Mymensingh and other districts for the use of the weavers. The dyers generally earn Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 a month.

The weavers of Santipur do not work more than 6 hours a day. The women assist them in the sizing and preparation of the warps.

The weavers take their finished products to the various *hâts* and market places where they are sold and the largest market for these weavers' cloths are at Kumarkhali and at Panti.

Silk and tassar weaving.

There is one family who manufacture *matka* and *ketty* cloths at Palshipara, in the Meherpur subdivision.

Pottery.

This industry is carried on on a large scale at Ranaghat, Habibpur, Kaitpara and Briddhkole, in the Ranaghat subdivision, and at Goarai and Nabadwip, in the Sadar subdivision, and Parnia and Dhordah, in Meherpur subdivision. In the household earthenware manufactured by them there is no speciality or finish but the potters of Krishnagar (Ghurni), Ranaghat and Santipur deserve special mention. They manufacture Hindu images of superior workmanship. The potters of Ghurni make Hindu idols, busts, imitation fruits, fishes and other such things. Clay models of all sorts excepting the Hindu idols and busts (which are made of plaster of Paris) are burnt in order to make them more durable. The method followed by the workers is chiefly realistic; they aim at copying natural forms and do not resort to originality. The cheaper dolls are mostly taken by boys and widows. Casting is also used to a certain extent in the making of fruits and other models of the kind which have a wide market. The clay used for moulding is specially prepared. Plaster of Paris is also used in making busts. About 15 to 20 families are regularly engaged in clay-modelling at Ghurni and Krishnagar. The average monthly income of a potter is about Rs. 35 per month. The images of gods and goddesses are sold at very high prices—higher than anywhere in Bengal. The daily earning of a modeller is Rs. 2. Orders from Europe and America for groups and figures are also received by them. Jadunath Pal and his cousin Bakkeswar are excellent all-round modellers. Their models find a market even in European countries. Their average monthly income comes to about Rs. 200. They have to refuse orders for want of experienced work hands.

Basket-making.

Muchis and *Domes* who carry on this trade all over the district use bamboo and cane for their work. No fancy articles are made anywhere but *dhamas* are manufactured on an extensive scale. In addition to the adults, children are also employed in the work as it is simple. The average daily income of an adult is 4 to 5 annas. Marwari middlemen supply cane on credit and appropriate the greater share of the income.

Brass, copper and bell-metal work.

Bell-metal and brass utensils are manufactured at Meherpur and Kushtea, where ordinary household wares are made. The most important centres of brass and bell-metal work are Matiari, Dharnada, Sadhanpara and Nabadwip. *Mahajans* import brass, copper and zinc sheets from Europe and sell them to the actual workers at certain rates per seer—varying from 4 to 10 annas according to the quality and kind of work. At Matiari there are about 300 families who are heavily indebted to the *mahajans*. The condition of the workers cannot be improved unless they are freed from the hands of the *mahajans*. It is said that about 25,000 maunds of utensils are manufactured at Matiari and Nabadwip which are mostly exported to Calcutta for sale.

Cur-making.

Gur-making is very extensively carried on in thanas Krishnaganj and Hanskhali, in the Sadar subdivision, also throughout the subdivision of Chuadanga and Meherpur. It is estimated that about 40,000 maunds of molasses are exported every year from the Sadar subdivision alone.

The manufacture of sugar from date molasses is conducted at Alamdanga, Munshiganj, Jamjani and Jaganathpur, in Chuadanga subdivision. There is also a big sugar manufacturing factory at Santipur.

Curing of hides, tannery, etc.

Cattle hides are cured with *khari* salt while buffalo hides are only dried in the sun before being sent to Calcutta for export. The *Muchis* also sell them to local *awatdars* at Kushtea, Koya, Kamalapur, Talberia, Amla and Allardanga, in the Kushtea subdivision at Munshiganj, Alamdanga Chuadanga, Ramnagar, etc., in the Chuadanga subdivision, at Meherpur and other villages near the railway stations.

There is a small tannery at Krishnagar run by a Punjabi merchant who has got a big shoe shop in the Goari Bazar. The bark of the *babal* tree is generally used in tanning.

There is a large number of *Muchis* at Ghurni who make shoes. They obtain their leather from the merchants in the bazar and return them in the shape of shoes, the usual remuneration being 12 annas

to Re. 1-4 per pair. Boots and shoes are also manufactured with imported leather by the local *Muchis* at Santipur, Shikarpur, Ranaghat, Chuadanga, Alamdanga and Meherpur. They are sold locally and also exported to Calcutta. Leather saddles are made at Shikarpur by some expert *Muchis*.

Sola hat-making.

About 200 to 300 families are engaged in this industry. They are Malakars by caste. In the Sadar subdivision sola hats are made at Pallasy, in Kaliganj police-station. The uncovered sola *topis* are sold by the actual makes at 6 to 8 per rupee. There are local dealers who purchase and send them direct to Calcutta.

Aerated water factories.

Aerated water is manufactured at Goari for local consumption, but they are not much in demand as the liquids are not properly filtered. They get their requirements from Ranaghat and Calcutta. There are four such factories making sodas and lemonades in the Kushtea subdivision.

Book-binders.

There are two book-binders at Goari Bazar who carry on a flourishing business. There are also some book-binders at Ranaghat, Meherpur and Kushtea.

Blanket-making.

Blankets are made by a class of men called Bheriwallas who have emigrated from the United Provinces. Two or three families at Goari, 4 or 5 at Majdia, 10 to 15 at Maheshganj, 30 to 40 at Shikarpur are engaged in this industry. These blankets are consumed locally and are sold at Rs. 6 to Rs. 10 each. It takes about 7 days to weave a blanket.

Rope and string-making.

Ropes and strings of jute are ordinarily made by agriculturists who grow jute for their own consumption during their spare hours. Women of the poorer classes during their leisure hours are generally employed in rope-making in the Meherpur and Kushtea subdivision. They are sold by weight which brings in a profit of 1 anna 6 pies to 2 annas per seer.

Bone ashes.

At Chuadanga there is an industry for making bone dust from bones gathered from the fields. This is used as a manure and is also exported to Calcutta for the same purpose. About 1,000 maunds of bones are exported to Calcutta annually by boat.

Tailoring.

Tailors who cut out and sew garments are to be found in all towns and even in important villages in the district. They make shirts, coats, Punjabis, etc. Only at Krishnagar, Ranaghat, Kushtea and Kumarkhali tailor shops run by master-tailors are found. The average earning of a village tailor ranges from 10 to 12 annas a day and those who have sewing machines Re. 1 or more. The average earnings of a master-tailor is between Rs. 30 and Rs. 50 per month.

FARIDPUR DISTRICT.

Cotton Weaving.

The principal localities inhabited by the weavers in the district of Faridpur are the following:—

Goalundo subdivision.—Mirgi, Maishala, Jasai and Kankhali-Dayarampur, in Pangsa police-station; Maururi, Dhunchi, Khankhanapur, Alladipur and Kaijuri, in Rajbari police-station; Mathurapur, Gajna and Jamalpur, in Baliakandi police-station.

Madaripur subdivision.—Bahadurpur, in Sibchur police-station; Motbari, Telikandi, Srirampur, Badarpara and Adampur, in Madaripur police-station; Kartickpur, in Badarganj police-station.

Gopalganj subdivision.—Bhatara and Nauikshir, in Mukshudpur police-station; Atharabari, Tarashi, Falshi, Kokhuja and Gachapara, in Kotalipara police-station.

Sadar subdivision.—Bhanga.

The weavers are mostly Mallicks and Karikars. Almost all the weavers have got a handloom. They make the coarser varieties of *dhutis*, *saris*, *lungis* and *gamchas*.

The supply of yarn in the Goalundo subdivision is obtained from the Kumarkhali *hat* which is in the Nadia district, and where the largest amount of cotton yarn is sold in the district. The price of yarn per bundle of 22 *moras* is Rs. 14. In the Madaripur subdivision a bundle of thread of 28 counts costs Rs. 14. Out of this five pairs of cloths are made which sell at Rs. 5-12 per pair. It takes 16 days to make five pairs of cloths. They generally take 10 to 12 hours to set up the warp of a pair of cloth and a pair of 6½ yards *dhuti* or *sari* can be finished in one day and a pair of full size (10 yards) cloth in two days. They work from morning to evening with an interval of 2 or 3 hours, in the middle of the day, for their mid-day meals, etc. They do not work at night. The women assist in setting up the warps and in the making of yarns

for the shuttles. The weavers dispose of their produce in the local markets where they have both wholesale and retail sales. The weavers generally make a profit of 12 annas per pair of cloth by retail sales and 9 annas by wholesale sale. The profit of middlemen generally comes to about 2 to 3 annas per pair of *dhutis* or *saris*.

Faridpur, specially in the subdivision of Goalundo (Rajbari), produce a fairly large quantity of chintzes striped and checked cloth pieces for coats, shirts and *Punjabis*. Their prices range from Rs. 3 to Rs. 8 a piece according to the quality of cloth. The pieces are 10 to 13 yards long and 27 to 30 inches wide. On account of hard competition with foreign made stuff of cheaper qualities there is hardly any demand for these local made cloths.

Bed-sheets of very fine quality are also made by the weavers of Rajbari (Goalundo subdivision) and are sold at Rs. 5 each.

In the Madaripur subdivision the cloths are sold by the weavers themselves in *hâts*.

Dyes are not used by the weavers but they use dyed thread. No fine or ornamented cloths are made in this district.

Basket-making.

Baskets are generally made by the *Domes* and other low class men to a limited extent as a secondary occupation. There are some persons in the village Saursha, in Pangsa police-station, and Arkandi and Matlakhali, in Baliakandi police-station, who make cane articles such as tiffin-baskets, chairs, teapoys, etc., but the outturn is small.

Brass, copper and bell-metal.

Bell-metal and copper utensils are not manufactured at all in this district. At and near Palong about 60 to 70 families are engaged in making brass utensils from imported brass sheets. The chief centres for such articles are Bilaskhan, Dasarata, Katalbari and Baghira, in the Palong police-station. Old brass is also melted and then cast into utensils for domestic use. There is no outside demand for these articles because they cannot compete favourably with articles manufactured elsewhere.

Pottery.

There are potters in every part of this district except in Goalundo Ghat police-station. They prepare ordinary cooking vessels, water-pots, clay-toys, etc., and there is no special feature to be reported regarding the work of the potters. During the paddy harvesting season boatloads of earthen wares are taken to Bakarganj district, where they are bartered for paddy which is regarded as a lucrative trade, as the paddy received is worth much more than the money value of the earthen ware.

Sugar.

Sugarcane and date-juice extraction is carried on on rather a big scale in Pangsa police-station for the preparation of *gur*, and the principal villages where this is done are Habaspur, Nirgi and Kalimohar,

in Goalundo subdivision, and Gobindapur, Khoajpur, Bhotnaj, Kalkini, Mathabhanga, Benodepur and Kartickpur, in the Madaripur subdivision.

The manufacture of sugar is done in the Goalundo subdivision at Sonakandar and Lakshikhole, in the Rajbari police-station. The factory consists of a few huts and two or three big iron pans for boiling *gur*. *Gur* is purchased from the market in earthen pots. It is poured on a bamboo sieve to separate sugar crystals from the mother-liquor. These sugar crystals are covered with a moss known as algae for the purpose of decolorisation.

The mother-liquor, *i.e.*, liquid *gur*, is put into big iron pans mixed up with a little water and then boiled down and concentrated. It is afterwards poured into an earthen pot which has a small hole at the bottom but which is closed at the time. Crystallisation slowly goes on and when it is almost complete it is covered with a moss algae, and the hole at the bottom is opened. After a day or two the surface layer of the crystal is decolorised and is scraped off. Fresh water algae are then put over the underlying layer of the crystals and the process is repeated till all the sugar crystals are perfectly white. The mother-liquor which trickles down through the hole at the bottom of the pot is received into an earthen vessel and is called *chitagur*. It is used for mixing with tobacco leaves for making *chillum* tobacco or *tamak*.

Manufacture of iron implements.

There are blacksmiths in every part of this district. They make agricultural implements such as plough-shares, scythes, etc., and household implements as spades, *dao*, *khonta*, etc. In the Goalundo subdivision there is a custom of paying to the blacksmith 4 cottas of paddy for one plough and scythe supplied to the agriculturist. These blacksmiths generally supply the demand of the agriculturists. Raw material is purchased from the local market. Cheap axes and spades of foreign make are also sold in the market and are more in demand as the high prices of the local article is a bar to their greater sale.

Rope and string-making.

There is no regular cottage industry in rope-making in the Goalundo subdivision. The women in their leisure hours prepare jute string locally which are known as *tauta*. In the Gopalganj subdivision jute-weaving is done in the following villages:—

Kashalia, Gunahar and Bayai Khola, in the Kotalipara thana.

In the Madaripur subdivision jute strings and sacks are made in Durgabardi village, in Rajor police-station, and Aisar-Kamalapur, in Kalkini police-station.

Bricks and tiles.

At Domesnar (Madaripur) tiles are manufactured similar to those made by Messrs. Burn & Co., Raniganj; there is also a brick factory at Madaripur.

Pati-making.

Another important industry consists in the manufacture of mats (*pati*) from *motra* grass. The *sital patis* (mats) made in the Sadar subdivision of the Faridpur district, though not so fine as those made in Sylhet, are very useful and extensively used by the common people.

Kantha work.

The *kantha* work industry has been started under the auspices of the Home Industries Association, Faridpur. The method of work is as follows:--

- (1) Yarns are purchased from the market and made over to the local weavers through the agent with instructions regarding the making of the cloth. If required suitable cloth is purchased from the market also.
- (2) The finished cloth is brought back from the weavers and it is then bleached. The bleached cloth is cut into required sizes and then distributed to the women by the agent with instructions as to its design. Coloured threads are also purchased and given to the women to embroider them with.
- (3) The finished articles are collected and brought back when their labour, price, etc., are appraised. All payments are made by the agent. The articles are then sold through private agencies.

At present there are 70 women employed in the *kantha* works. I am told that there are many more women who are willing to be employed in the work, but for want of funds they are not yet taken in. Hence it seems that this *kantha* work is capable of development. It takes a very long time to make one *kantha* or bed-sheet or table-cloth because the women generally work at it at their leisure hours. Hence the monthly outturn is not more than 10 *kanthas* at present.

Match.

Safety matches are manufactured in the district of Faridpur by the following firms:--

- (1) Messrs. Dass & Son's Safety Matches, Palong;
- (2) The Eastern Cotton Industries and Bank, Ltd., Madaripur.
- (3) Babu Gopalchandra Mukherjee's Match Factory at Bilaskhan;
and
- (4) The Bangiya Nirapada Match Factory, Faridpur.

All of them except No. 4 use hand machine devised by Dr. Nandi, of Comilla, and they use woods locally known as Simul, Kadam, Debdaru, Pitkhila and Chhaitan.

The Bangiya Nirapada Match Factory do not use any cutting machine for making the splints but, instead, very fine bamboo splints are used for the match sticks.

The process of manufacture is the same everywhere.

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