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**PREDOMINANCE OF TRADITIONAL SECTOR IN UNORGANISED MANUFACTURING OF INDIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Unorganised sector provides employment to about 90 per cent of the population but its contribution towards NDP is only 60 per cent. The main reason behind it is that unorganised manufacturing sector is more concentrated in agricultural states or economically backward states. In these states mostly traditional activities are carried out and the unskilled workers find employment in the unorganised manufacturing sector. The research work is aimed at analysing the dominance of Traditional Sector in unorganised manufacturing of India after economic reforms. The period under study i.e. 1994-1995 to 2005-2006 is a period of rapid reforms. This reform period has largely favoured the non-traditional units and many of the traditional occupation are dying away. The early reform period has been most favourable to the non-traditional organised manufacturing but since 1994-1995 the unorganised manufacturing sector has surged forward in terms of employment as well as enterprises. So, here it will be important to see if the period since 1994-1995 has observed any type of structural changes in unorganised manufacturing sector of India.*

**KEYWORDS**

predominance, traditional sector, economic reforms, unorganised manufacturing.

**INTRODUCTION**

The developing economies are generally dual in nature comprising of an emerging modern sector and giant sized traditional sector. The traditional sector, which is largely informal in character, is assumed to be transitory in nature and diminishes in its size and importance as the economy moves above the ladder of growth. But in many developing countries, particularly India, the reverse has happened as the unorganised sector has been assuming more and more importance as the economies have grown. During the process of structural transformation of the economy, the unskilled labour force has fewer chances to get employed in the modern sector and so such labour force is more likely to get placed in the informal, low paid activities. India is also no exception in this case as about 92 per cent of its total work force is employed in the unorganised sector. Though, agriculture comprises a huge share of this employment but outside agriculture, the role of unorganised manufacturing sector is very important. It has been providing employment to a substantial number of people and is also contributing significantly to the national output. It is also being seen as the next engine of the growth for the Indian economy. Though, its contribution to total employment is immense but its share in net domestic product of the economy is not as high. This indicates towards low level of productivity in this particular sector. Moreover, the employment in this particular sector is mainly concentrated into small sized own account enterprises. Thus, most of the workers in this sector earn very low amount. Low earnings and lack of any social security make them vulnerable to the contingencies of life. But still, this sector has to a large extent solved the problem of joblessness and so helps in mitigating the problem of poverty. But the distribution of this particular sector is not evenly spread across industries and different types of enterprises. Some of the sub-sectors (or industries) in the unorganised manufacturing sector of India, have shown dynamic growth trends in case of employment, wages as well as productivity in recent years while some of them have been contracting. In some sub-sectors growth of employment has been associated with growth of productivity as well as growth of wages while some have experienced deterioration on these grounds. In today's competitive world, it is high time to recognise such sectors which have high growth potential (both in terms of output as well employment). So, present study is an attempt to analyse all these aspects of the unorganised manufacturing sector of India.

**OBJECTIVES OF STUDY**

Objectives of this study is to observe the shift in case of employment as well as number of enterprises and whether the relative importance of traditional and non traditional industries has under gone any significant change during reform period.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Many studies have been conducted in this regards.

Kundu (1993) is of the opinion that the growth of informal sector in less developed areas is because of the survival strategy and taking up the traditional and low productive activities by the poor residents.

Shaw (1994) emphasized in his research to look into the manufacturing activities in the informal sector and concluded that the informal sector can develop more with the active government support both in terms of encouraging investments and providing infrastructure facilities.

Bhalla, (2003) has analysed the traditional & modern segments of unorganised manufacturing sector of India. She has pointed out that though the productivity of the modern sector is much higher than the traditional sector and is growing at an even faster pace, yet the traditional sector has an unmatched contribution to employment in this sector.

Marjit and Kar (2005) pointed out that in order to understand the impact of reforms on labour market; one has to assess the working of the capital market as well.

Prakash and Meher (2006) analysed the data from the four NSSO Surveys and examined the structural change and productivity trends in the unorganised manufacturing sector during the period 1985-2001.

Harris-white and Sinha (2007) noted that in the context of India, it is important to realise that the informal sector can be far more dynamic than the organised sector, provided, they have the right opportunities to flourish.

Kathuria, et. al. (2010) have analysed the productivity performance of the organised and unorganised units of the Indian manufacturing sector at the state level for the period 1994-95 to 2004-05 and have examined the impact of reforms on their performance.

**DATA SOURCE & RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This study is based upon secondary data. Source of the study is NSSO (National Sample Survey Organisation) surveys which provide extensive data on unorganised manufacturing sector. NSSO defines the unorganised sector in terms of all unincorporated proprietary enterprises and partnership enterprises (GOI, 2001). NSSO provides data for about 23 sub-sectors as per National Industrial Classification. All classification has been adjusted according to National Industrial Classification, 98 as per the concordance table provided by NSSO. This data is further disaggregated into rural-urban segments across various sub-sectors. The data provided by NSSO is classified into three types of enterprises namely, Own Account Manufacturing Enterprises (OAMEs), Non-directory Manufacturing Enterprises (NDMEs), Directory Manufacturing Enterprises (DMEs). NSSO defines OAMEs as those enterprises which operate with no hired worker on a fairly regular basis. NDMEs are those enterprises which employ less than six workers including household workers and DMEs employ six or more workers with at least one hired worker but not registered under the Factory Act 1948 (NSSO, 2002). For analysing the data, simple averages and percentage method have been used.

**DISTRIBUTION ACROSS SECTORS****TABLE 1: PERCENTAGE SHARE OF NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES AND EMPLOYMENT IN UNORGANISED MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN INDIA BY INDUSTRY GROUP (1994-95)**

Industry Name	No. of Enterprises			Employment		
	Rural	Urban	Combined	Rural	Urban	Combined
Agro Foods	29.52	18.10	26.34	29.87	15.59	25.11
Textiles	16.98	14.11	16.18	20.43	19.65	20.17
Wood & Wood Products	23.27	10.76	19.81	19.71	9.32	16.24
Paper & Paper Products	0.49	3.07	1.21	0.59	3.82	1.67
Leather & Leather Products	1.15	2.25	1.46	0.86	2.83	1.52
Chemicals & Chemical Products	0.59	1.87	0.95	0.71	1.75	1.06
Rubber & Plastic Products	0.23	1.52	0.58	0.25	2.46	0.99
Non-Metallic Mineral Products	7.10	2.70	5.88	10.13	3.20	7.82
Basic Metals	0.07	0.68	0.24	0.09	0.94	0.37
Metal Products	2.38	4.99	3.10	2.27	7.07	3.87
Machineries	0.56	1.63	0.85	0.54	2.82	1.30
Transport Equipments	0.07	0.51	0.19	0.10	0.94	0.38
n.e.c.*	17.59	37.80	23.17	14.43	29.79	19.56
All	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Calculated from NSSO 1998 (Report No 433)

Note: \* n.e.c.: Not elsewhere classified

**TABLE 2: PERCENTAGE SHARE OF NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES AND EMPLOYMENT IN UNORGANISED MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN INDIA BY INDUSTRY GROUP (2000-01)**

Industry Name	No. of Enterprises			Employment		
	Rural	Urban	Combined	Rural	Urban	Combined
Agro Foods	34.00	21.74	30.05	32.99	17.85	27.64
Textiles	28.00	36.67	30.72	25.78	35.01	29.04
Wood & Wood Products	21.00	6.79	16.52	18.67	5.67	14.08
Paper & Paper Products	0.40	3.62	1.37	0.49	4.69	1.97
Leather & Leather Products	0.76	1.66	1.03	0.56	2.03	1.48
Chemicals & Chemical Products	0.90	2.22	1.29	1.27	2.02	1.53
Rubber & Plastic Products	0.33	1.23	0.60	0.45	1.90	0.96
Non-Metallic Mineral Products	5.75	2.62	4.82	10.69	3.71	8.23
Basic Metals	0.12	0.48	0.23	0.17	0.70	0.36
Metal Products	3.11	5.34	3.77	2.82	6.95	4.28
Machineries	0.88	2.64	1.40	0.87	4.43	2.13
Transport Equipments	0.07	0.59	0.23	0.10	1.12	0.46
n.e.c.	5.23	14.40	7.98	5.15	13.93	8.25
All	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Calculated from NSSO 2002 (Report No 479)

**TABLE 3: PERCENTAGE SHARE OF NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES AND EMPLOYMENT IN UNORGANISED MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN INDIA BY INDUSTRY GROUP (2005-06)**

Industry Name	No. of Enterprises			Employment		
	Rural	Urban	Combined	Rural	Urban	Combined
Agro Foods	36.43	20.29	31.76	31.48	16.63	26.19
Textiles	30.64	41.99	33.92	27.19	37.85	30.99
Wood & Wood Products	15.79	4.53	12.53	15.03	4.11	11.14
Paper & Paper Products	1.02	3.28	1.68	1.02	4.04	2.10
Leather & Leather Products	0.32	2.14	0.84	0.40	2.93	1.30
Chemicals & Chemical Products	2.45	2.45	2.45	2.55	2.04	2.37
Rubber & Plastic Products	0.25	0.97	0.46	0.45	1.49	0.82
Non-Metallic Mineral Products	4.42	2.14	3.76	8.37	2.87	6.41
Basic Metals	0.11	0.44	0.21	0.14	0.61	0.31
Metal Products	3.05	5.06	3.63	3.03	7.30	4.55
Machineries	1.01	3.42	1.71	0.96	5.07	2.42
Transport Equipments	0.09	0.57	0.24	0.26	1.09	0.56
n.e.c.	4.42	12.73	6.83	4.85	13.97	8.10
All	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Calculated from NSSO 2008 (Report No. 525)

**Table 1, 2 and 3** shows the percentage share of enterprises and employment in different industry groups which are further segregated into rural and urban areas from 1994-1995 to 2005-2006. The tables show the respective share of different industries out of the total enterprises and employment in the rural areas, urban areas and combined totals separately for the different periods. They highlight the industries which account for the maximum enterprises and employment as well as the industries which account for the minimum share of the enterprises and employment during this period.

It can be observed that the sector of manufacturing of agro-foods, textiles and wood & wood products had remained the three largest sectors in the unorganised manufacturing sector of India. About 76 per cent of the total enterprises in the unorganised manufacturing sector of India are involved in manufacturing of these three sub-sectors and they together give employment to about 70 per cent of total workers in this particular sector. Among these sectors, the sector of manufacturing of agro-foods has experienced an increase in its share of enterprises as well as employment. In case of enterprises, it has increased from 26.34 per cent in 1994-95 to 31.76 per cent in 2005-06 while in case of employment it has increased from 25.11 per cent in 1994-95 to 26.19 per cent in 2005-06. It can also be observed that rural units of this sub-sector have registered a large increase in their share out of total enterprises and employment as compared to urban counterparts.

The sub-sector of manufacturing of textiles has experienced the largest increase in its share. In this sub-sector, the share of enterprises has increased from 16.18 per cent in 1994-1995 to 30.72 per cent in 2000-2001 and further to 33.92 per cent in 2005-2006. The share of employment has increased from 20.17 per cent in 1994-1995 to 29.04 per cent in 2000-2001 and then to 30.99 per cent in 2005-2006. This sector has observed the trends of urbanisation as the share of



enterprises in the rural areas increased from 16.98 per cent in 1994-95 to 30.64 per cent in 2005-2006 and the share of employment has increased from 20.43 per cent in 1994-1995 to 27.19 per cent in 2005-06. In contrast, in the urban areas the share of enterprises has increased from 14.11 per cent in 1994-95 to 41.99 per cent in 2005-06, while the share of employment has also increased from 19.65 per cent in 1994-95 to 37.85 per cent in 2005-06. On the other hand, in the manufacturing of wood & wood products the share of enterprises has decreased from 19.81 per cent in 1994-95 to 12.53 per cent in 2005-06. Similarly the share of employment has decreased from 16.24 per cent in 1994-95 to 11.14 per cent in 2005-06. This decline can be observed both in the rural and urban areas.

Besides, the sub-sector of manufacturing of non-metallic mineral products and basic metals also have significant share in both total enterprises and employment in the unorganised manufacturing sector of India. But out of these, the former sector has experienced a decline in its share while the latter has been increasing its share in total enterprises as well as employment. In the manufacturing of non-metallic mineral products the share of enterprises has decreased from 5.88 per cent in 1994-95 and then to 3.76 per cent in 2005-06. However, the share of employment has decreased from 7.82 per cent in 1994-95 to 6.41 per cent in 2005-06. On the other hand, in case of manufacturing of metal products, the share of enterprises has increased from 3.10 per cent in 1994-95 to 3.63 per cent in 2005-06. The share in employment has increased from 3.87 per cent in 1994-95 to 4.55 per cent in 2005-06. Both of these shares have increased in rural as well as urban areas.

The above analysis of the share of enterprises and employment in different industries in the rural areas shows that in 1994-95 this share was the maximum in the sub-sector of manufacturing of agro foods and was followed by manufacturing of wood & wood products, manufacturing of textiles and manufacturing of non-metallic mineral products. In 1994-95 the share of enterprises and employment was very low in the industries like manufacturing of basic metals, manufacturing of transport equipments, manufacturing of paper & paper products, manufacturing of machineries and manufacturing of chemicals & chemical products. Similar situation was observed in 2000-01 and 2005-06 as the manufacturing of agro foods industry followed by textiles, wood & wood products and non-metallic mineral products comprised the largest share and the sub-sectors of transport equipments, basic metals, rubber & plastic products and leather & leather products had been placed at the lower end of distribution of enterprises and employment in unorganised manufacturing sector of India. Similarly, the rural-urban break-up shows that the share of enterprises has remained maximum in agro foods industry for both urban and rural areas over all the years but the share of employment was the maximum in the textiles industry followed by agro foods, wood & wood products and metal products. So during 1994-95 in the urban areas, the share of enterprises was the maximum in manufacturing of agro foods but the share of employment was the maximum in the manufacturing of textiles.

### FINDING OF THE STUDY

The sector-wise distribution shows that the unorganised manufacturing sector of India is mainly concentrated in three sub-sectors, namely, manufacturing of agro-foods, textiles and wood & wood products. These sectors account for 75 per cent of the total enterprises and about 70 per cent of the total employment in the unorganised manufacturing sector of India. Out of these, the sectors of manufacturing of agro-foods and textiles have experienced an increase in their share both in employment and enterprises while the manufacturing of wood and wood products has experienced a decline in its share. Another interesting point of this distribution is that the manufacturing of agro-foods is gradually being ruralised and the manufacturing of textiles is being urbanised. However, among the various sub-sectors, the fastest growing sectors are the manufacturing of chemicals & chemical products, machineries and transport equipments.

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

From above analysis, we can sum up that most of the unorganised enterprises in the manufacturing sector are mainly concentrated in the sub-sectors of manufacturing of agro foods, manufacturing of textiles, manufacturing of wood & wood products i.e. in the traditional areas. Over a period of time we can observe that though both the sectors of manufacturing of agro foods and manufacturing of textiles have registered increase in their share in employment as well as enterprises, the increase in manufacturing of textiles is far greater than manufacturing of agro-foods and any other sub-sector of the unorganised manufacturing sector of India. Another point to note is that in both these sub-sectors the increase in share in enterprises is far greater than the increase in share in employment. Interestingly, the sub-sectors at the lowest end of distribution of employment and enterprises in unorganised manufacturing sector of India (e.g. manufacturing of metal products, manufacturing of machineries and manufacturing of transport equipments etc.) had shown the opposite trend that the increase in their share in employment has been greater than that of the enterprises. Similarly, where the share has declined, the decline in share in employment has been lesser than that of the enterprises with a few exceptions. Further, the trends of ruralisation can be observed in case of the sub-sector of manufacturing of agro-foods and that of urbanisation in case of manufacturing of textiles

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