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PROSPECTS OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN KARBI ANGLONG DISTRICT OF ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

The small scale industries have plays a very important role in economic development of any region. For the development of any region it is necessary to develop the basic infrastructure facilities like Road, transportation, communication and electricity facilities in the region. If the small scale industries develop in the Karbi Anglong district of Assam, then the infrastructural facilities in the district will automatically developed. Small scale industries can help the employment generation in the district, because there is less scope in other sector to get jobs in the district.

KEYWORDS: *small scale industries, goods, employees, cottage industries, employment*

INTRODUCTION

Karbi Anglong district is one of the backward districts in India. In 2006, the Indian Government named Karbi Anglong district one of the country's 250 most backward districts out of a total 640 district. In the Karbi Anglong district most of the people are living below the poverty line. The development of small scale industries can help in alleviating poverty through more employment.

A Small-Scale industry is an industry established by the small amount of money or a small group of people. A small scale industry produces its goods using small machines, less power and hired labor. It is located within a single place and produces goods are sells by the locality of that area. They require cheap labours that are easily found and their target market is the host community. Such companies

also realize a small annual turnover and as a result pay fewer taxes. The classification of the industry as large or small scale depends on the rate of production and the number of employees. An industry with a low rate of production and fewer employees is a small scale industry. Most governments implement policies that strengthen the small scale industry sector because small scale industries plays an important role in economical development.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The following studies have appreciate the prospect of Small Scale Industries-

1. Dasgupta (1983) suggested that if labour intensive small scale industries are established, they will provide some alternative economic opportunities to the people in the hilly areas of the region as it

improved cultivation with multiple cropping in a difficult proposition in these areas.

2. According to Devi (1995) Industrial development is a pre-condition for the economic development of an underdeveloped region. She is of the opinion that industrial development in general and development of small scale and cottage industries in particular is bound to play an active role in connection with the economic development of an underdeveloped state, like Manipur.

3. Dhar (1995) has observed that there is ample scope for the development of small scale industries in the Northeastern State. The development of the small scale industries are not only mobilizing local resources but also increasing income and generating adequate employment opportunities to the local people.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on secondary data. Secondary data are collected from Statistical Handbook of Assam, Economic Survey, articles published in various journals and magazines and news paper, website etc.

OBJECTIVE

Karbi Anglong district is a hill district in Assam. Around 85% population depends on agriculture for their livelihood. There is no other scope for getting employment of the people in the district. So, this paper put focus on the prospect of establishment of various small scale industries in the district for employment generation and economic development of the district.

Table-1: Registered Micro, Small and Medium Scale units, 2012-13 and 2013-14

District/ State	2012-13				2013-14			
	Micro	Small	Medium	Total	Micro	Small	Medium	Total
Karbi Anglong	3	3	-	6	11	3	1	15

Source: Statistical Handbook Assam, 2013 and 2014

In the table-1, it is seen that the number of small scale industries have been increases from 2012-13 to 2013-14. In the year 2012-13 the number of Micro industries was only 3 but in the year 2013-14 the numbers of Micro industries have been increases upto 11. But In the year 2012-13 to 2013-14 the numbers of small scale industries remain same, which are 3. But on the other hand the number of Medium scale industries have been increases from zero to one from 2012-13 to 2013-14.

PROSPECTS OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN KARBI ANGLONG DISTRICT

Karbi Anglong district has three geographical tracts, plains, hills gentle slopes and hills with steep slopes. About 65 percent of the district is covered by hills. The district covering 10434 sq. km is the largest district in Assam, which is about 13 percent of the State’s total area. Around 30 percent area of the district is forest covering with dense tropical forest on hills and flat plains. The total cropped area is 18 percent out of which 68 percent is net sown. About 32 percent of the net sown area is sown more than once. The rest is barren and uncultivable. The main agricultural practice in the district is jhum cultivation

There are various industries that have tremendous growth potential in Karbi Anglong district of Assam which can conveniently be located on the basis of local skill, the raw-material and the demand for the product. These industries have been classified into two categories, viz,

- a. Those which already exist in the area but have further potential for expansion and
- b. Those which are non-existent but posses enough potential for their growth and development in the district.

In Karbi Anglong district the numbered of registered Micro, Small and Medium Scale units under the Commissioner of Industries and Commerce from 2012-13 to 2013-14 is shown to the table-1.

The number of Investment in plant & Machinery and workers under the Commissioner of Industries and Commerce from 2011-12 to 2013-14 in Karbi Anglong district of Assam is shown in the table-2

Table-2: Number of Investment in plant & Machinery and workers from the period 2011-12 to 2013-14

District	Investment in P& M (Rs. In Lakh)			No. of Workers		
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Karbi Anglong	347.15	183.40	1938.66	66	76	154

P & M= Plant and Machinery (Source: Statistical Handbook Assam, 2013 and 2014)

In the Karbi Anglong district, there is an less number of industries which will provide employment opportunity to the people. People are mainly depends on government jobs. But, compared to the government jobs the number of applicants for the government jobs is very high. So, if the small scale

industries established in the district then the problems of unemployment can be solved easily.

In the Karbi Anglong district the distribution of registered factories and workers in 2013 as per NIC 2008 is shown in the table-3

Table-3: Registered factories and workers in 2013

NIC	Type of Industry	Karbi Anglong	
		Factory	Workers
10	Manufacture of food products	19	324
11	Manufacture of beverages	1	100
16	Manufacture of wood and products of wood and cork, except furniture; Manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials	9	377
23	Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products	3	338
24	Manufacture of basic metals	1	50
Total		33	

Factory: Numbers of Factories, Workers: Numbers of Workers

Source: Statistical Handbook Assam 2014

Following resource cum demand based industries can be set up and developed in Karbi Anglong district.

AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIES

The economy of Karbi Anglong district has been based on agriculture. Agro-based industries by using locally available raw materials and indigenous know-how open opportunities for educated skilled and uneducated manpower. The most important agro-based industries are identified and recommended by Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industry, Government of India for Karbi Anglong district- 1. Fruit Preservation 2. Ginger Dehydration 3. Ginger Candy 4. Ginger Powder 5. Gums from vegetable trees 6. Bakery/Mechanized 7. Dalmut making 8. Honey (Bee-keeping) 9. Pineapple juice and 10. Ice and Ice Candy. Besides these, some other agro-based industries can also be developed depending upon the available raw materials such as Pine apple fiber extraction, Squashes, Pickles, Jams and Jellis making, Spices grindings, Oil Crushing, Cheera making, Mini Rice mill, Cotton ginning etc.

FOREST-BASED INDUSTRIES

At present total area under forests in Assam Hills is 5.6 lakh hectares, which accounts for 36.8%

of the total geographical area of Assam Hills. The total area under forests in Karbi Anglong district alone is 4,922.019 sq km. In the district, the forest area has been decreasing since last few years. Forest resources such as timber, fuel, bamboo, cane, agar wood, medicinal plants are available for exploitation in the district. Karbi anglong district have some registered forest-based units such as saw and timber mill, furniture making units, cane and bamboo units and Citronella oil producing units. However, in view of the vast and varied forest resources scattered all over the hill areas, there is enough scope of establishing forest base Small Scale Industrial units. This will not only help in industrial development, but also help in employment generation. The industries which are identified as per Industrial Potentiality Survey Conducted by Joint Director of Industries (Hills) and "Udyug Sahayak" as Small Scale Industries based on forest products for Karbi Anglong districts of Assam are- 1. Wooden electrical accessories 2. Wooden toys 3. Wooden umbrella handle 4. Stone crushing 5. Cane and bamboo products 6. Carpentry mechanized 7. Ayurvedic

Herbal/ Medicines 8. Collection of non-edible oil seeds from forest.

MINERAL-BASED INDUSTRIES

Karbi Anglong district is rich in minerals like limestone, coal, illuminate, industrial clay, etc. The growth of mineral-based industries provides scope for development of downstream industries. Besides downstream industries, several units based on the mineral resources of Karbi Anglong district can be considered. Minerals like Beryl, Building stone Glass and Quartz are also found in some areas. The district produces considerable quantities of coal. This coal can be used for production of several chemicals and other industrial products. Bokajan areas of the district is known for limestone deposits. The quality of these deposits varies from cement grade to chemical grade. At present there are two cement plants industries in the Karbi Anglong district, namely Bokajan Cement Factory and Karbi Chemical Mini Cement Plant (under construction). The district holds great potential for the rational utilisation of limestone in various industries. Lime is the most widely used chemical and is a raw material for many industries. In view of the available deposits of lime stone is a scope for setting up of many units under Small Scale Industrial sector in the district such as Cement Plants, Lime Plants, Calcium Carbide Plants, Precipitated calcium carbonate units and Bleaching Power Units. Besides, a few other industries that can come up in this sector include Granite mining and polishing, Clay Washery, Ceramic glazed tiles etc. The lime making units at present are extremely negligible in the district and as a result, the local as well as district or State demand of lime is being met from outside supply.

TEXTILE BASED INDUSTRIES

In the Karbi Anglong district the all the tribal women like Karbi, Boro, Dimasa etc. are having good skills in weaving. These people weave their dresses both for male and female with their own distinct design of embroidery and display. Karbi, Dimasa, Naga, Kuki, Mizo and all other tribes have their own traditional design of embroidery, which are displayed in shawls, mafla, cloth both for male and female. Their traditional decorative shawls have great demand inside and outside districts. The people in the district have traditional skills in handloom textile and handicraft. This traditional skill can be utilized for promoting textile-based units. The growth of sericulture and the demand for yam in the handloom sector provide a base for the development of Textile industries. Tribal clothes with tribal designs have a great scope for promotion and development. The district has skill in various types of handicrafts, which can be utilized profitably in the growth and expansion of industries, not only meet the needs of internal consumers but also expected to export their products to other parts of the country.

LIVESTOCK BASED INDUSTRIES

Non-vegetables is a delicacy of the people of the district. But the district is deficient in the production of these essential food items. Fish and eggs are being imported from other parts of the country, particularly from Andhra Pradesh. The potential for development of livestock and livestock-based industries is yet to be exploited.

Total Livestock and Poultry population in the Karbi Anglong district as compared to Assam as per 18th Livestock census, 2007 is shown in the table-4 and table-5

Table-4: Total Livestock as per Livestock Census 2007

District/ State	Cattle	Buffaloes	Sheep	Goats	Horse and Ponies	Pigs	Total Livestock	Fowls
Karbi Anglong	400429	14867	434	176550	31	168431	760751	3952628
Assam	10365583	525835	360379	4376150	10953	2133431	17772331	25931081

Source: Statistical Handbook of Assam

Table-5: Estimated Livestock and Poultry population, 2012-13 and 2013-14 (Sample Survey): (In Nos.)

District/ State	Indigenous cattle		Crossbreed cattle		Buffaloes		Goats		Fowls	
	2012-13	2013-14	2012-13	2013-14	2012-13	2013-14	2012-13	2013-14	2012-13	2013-14
Karbi Anglong	488414	434569	20457	20669	23438	45267	158635	177450	431497	521393
Assam	9093384	8754988	469847	483567	535317	496062	3129014	3230577	7942817	11118230

Source: Statistical Handbook Assam 2011, 2013 and 2014

In the district, every tribal family rears pigs, poultry for their own consumption as well as for marketing. But the cattle farming have not been developed among the tribal people due to lack of proper knowledge. To meet the large demand-supply gap of meat in the district as well as of the North Eastern Region, there is great scope for setting up Animal husbandry and meat processing units in the district. In the Karbi Anglong district, most of the Nepali people rear cows and even some tribal people rear Buffaloes for commercial production of milk. The forest areas are extensively used as grassing ground for feeding the cows and buffaloes. Under the Dairy development programme one Creamery Centre is established in the district. This unit is not sufficient to feed the milk produced in this district. There is enough scope for setting up more dairy product processing units in the district. Such dairy products

are generally Cream, Paneer, Ghee and varieties of sweets.

POTENTIALITY OF PLANTATION INDUSTRY

There is a good prospect for the development of plantation industries in the district such as Tea, Rubber, Coffee and Citronella. Tea plantation and processing have occupied an important place in the economy of the district. The area under tea cultivation in Karbi Anglong district of Assam is 4226 hectares and production of tea is 7715 (in 000 kg) in 2014. The average yield (kg per hectare) in the district is 1825.6 in 2014. Thus the prospect of tea cultivation in the district is also bright. Specially in Karbi Anglong district rubber-based industries have good prospects. The number of employment generation in rubber plantation activities in Assam and Karbi Anglong District is shown in the table-6.

Table-6: Generation of Employment in Rubber Plantation Activities, 2007-08 to 2011-12:

District/ State	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Karbi Anglong	316570	418511	918950	994600	1007000
Assam	1762591	2040686	2710230	2767450	2999893

Source: Statistical Handbook of Assam 2010, 2011 and 2012

Citronella plantation has been gaining popularity among the local farmers in the district. Large areas that have been abandoned after one or two Jhum cycle are found to be suitable for citronella plantation. The young entrepreneurs can come forward to initiate plantation of citronella grasses in their farms for extraction of citronella oil which has great demand inside the district and outside districts.

POTENTIALITY OF TOURISM INDUSTRY

Karbi Anglong district has vast potential for tourism. The district has unique cultural and ethnic diversity. The rivers, forest and mountains provide scope for adventure and ecotourism. Karbi Anglong district should be made a tourist hot-spot like Shimla, Kashmir, Nainital. The development of tourism will lead to improvement in the transport and communication system, growth of hotel industries, increase revenue etc. There are many natural tourist

spot in the district like Koka Falls at Panimur, Tourists centres of Amreng, Khanduli, Umwang, Kohora Resort, Trekking Expeditions to Singhason, Wild venture at Silveta, Garampani etc. The development of tourism will contribute to the development of handloom, handicraft and also the sericulture sector.

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