

Rise of the Kashimbazar under the Influence of Silk Industry during the Nawab Period

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ABSTRACT

Murshidabad is one of the biggest customary silk creating regions in West Bengal, which bears a brilliant legacy of delivering best silk in India since seventeenth century. Kashimbazar was one of the significant focuses of silk acquire for the British silk dealers. The business went into extraordinary decline as the Industrial Revolution in West set in. In the post Independence time frame endeavors were made to revive this locally established distinctive industry in India to make greater business and pay openings in the rustic economy. Records show that the silk weavers of Murshidabad were working in eighteenth century when Nawab Murshid Quli Khan (1717-1727) moved the capital of the Dewanee of Bengal from Dhaka, presently in Bangladesh, to another capital he based on the east bank of the River Bhagirathi and named Murshidabad. Murshidabad is popular for its cowdial saris made of fine mulberry silk with level, dark red or maroon outskirts made with three transports. The fringes are attached with fine indented plan in gold zari. Murshidabad silks are likewise popular for hand-printed plans and different materials which are too printed with wooden squares. Calcutta and Serampore in the Hooghly region are the principle material hand-printing focuses in West Bengal. In this paper I propose to display the brilliant period of Silk industry at Murshidabad and the cost of silk, business and disparaged by Nawab's power on this industry and furthermore the rancher's condition. When silk products of Murshidabad were sent out to the various nations of the world. In sixteenth century Murshidabad sent out its silk item to the shorelines of East Africa, Arabia, Turkey, Syria and different Countries.

Introduction

Silk was an old thing of utilization in India. In the times of the *Ramayana*, the *Mahabharata* and in the *Manusmriti* we found the utilization of silk as a hallowed dress material. In the archaic period silk industry had prospered and under the English and other European Companies Silk transformed into a significant exchanging product. It was perceptible that among the articles sent out from Bengal to Asia and Europe till the activity of develops imperialism, silk involved a significant spot. At first, the western interest for silk textures was initially met by imports from Persia and China. The Bengal silk market progressively became a force to be reckoned with after it was initially opened to Europe by the Dutch. (Moreland, 1923, p.6) The ocean course among Europe and India found by Vasco-da-Gama through the Cape of Good Hope encouraged the augmentation of the Bengal silk market to Europe. The fall of the Port of Hugli in 1632 brought about the ascent of Qasimbazar as an inland port just as a position of exchange and trade. Niccolo Manucci came to Qasimbazar in 1660-61 and says that,

...reached Qasimbazar at three days journey from Hugli...and here I saw that they made much high quality piece goods and much white cloth. There are in this village which is near the Ganges three factories of the French, English and Dutch. From Qasimbazar I took the road to Rajmahal...(Manucci, 1907, p.89)

In 1663, the Dutch in their Kasimbazar industrial facility utilized 700 silk weavers, and the English and the other European countries a more modest number. Kasimbazar's

creation limit was around 22,000 parcels of silk yarn every year, money bundle gauging 100 livres.

Despite the fact that import of silk texture was the prime worry of the Company till 1701, crude silk was the main article of fare in the Company's exchange Bengal since the start of the eighteenth century. In the principal half of the seventeenth century, the interest of the English for crude silk was fundamentally met by the silk of France, Italy, Persia and China. The Dutch Company directed the productive exchange, yet in the center of the Seventeenth century, the Dutch turned out to be keener on the exchange with Japan than with Europe. Also, the Dutch Company exchanged over to the exchange of valuable metals from Persia rather than Persian silk. The fare of crude silk to Europe subsequently became questionable and clearly it's gracefully had forcefully declined. The English Company appeared to have been keen on the Persian silk exchange the early long stretches of the seventeenth century and, therefore, it had to face a keen competition with the Dutch in addition to competition from the French and the Italian merchants.

The restraining infrastructure of the Shah of Persia in the silk exchange, and exactions and misuses rehearsed by the officials of the Shah demoralized the English without a doubt, and the Company, normally, went to Bengal, especially to Malda and Murshidabad for the flexibly of crude silk. The kickoff of the Hugli Factory in 1651, the Kasimbazar Factory in 1658 and the Malda Factory in 1680 by the Company significantly helped them in leading a broad exchange Bengal. To guarantee consistent gracefully of crude material the Company put forth difficult attempts to enlarge the creation of

silk. The creation and nature of silk basically relied upon the flexibility of new mulberry-leaves to the worms, and the Company, accordingly, expanded mulberry development and set up silk plants and filatures in the silk areas of Bengal. They understood its significance, and that Bengal silk was a significant thing in the presents offered to Farrukhsiyar by Surman showed its part in the customer market. Kasimbazar was the main focus of silk exchange and a huge amount of silk piece merchandise and of crude silk was sent out each year to the European business sectors from that point. The cost of silk shifted from Rs.3 to Rs. 7 for every soothsayer as per quality and flexibility. (Bhattacharya, 1969, p.148)

A few spots of Murshidabad region had got an incredible situation in sericulture and various outsiders had come to Murshidabad particularly in Kashimbazar, Saidabad, and Jangipur. Among them Kashimbazar was prevailing. Dutch province was set up (1648) at Kalikapur, British state (1658) at Kashimbazar French at Saidabad (1691). Other than these each Foreign Traders had a typical state in Kashimbazar. English province was likewise in Jangipur and Guntiat. (Mukherjee, 1992). The main individuals who had anticipated the future possibility of Kashimbazar as far as sericulture was British. The British organization had sent a gathering of guests from Surat to notice the market of lower Ganga of Patna. In 1621 they distributed that there is a splendid future and accessibility of silk. In 1681, the British East India Company contributed or dispensed 2, 30,000 pound and in the Bengal out of this 1,40,000 pound was contributed uniquely for the Kashimbazar. After the foundation of settlement in Malda and Kashimbazar, the fare of silk and silk material expanded and it began to reach among the average folks of England as it was modest and of high caliber. During this time a huge silk industry existed which conveyed raising, staggering and weaving activities. From Bengal, crude silk was generally sent out to the Middle East and European countries. The easy navigability of the Ganga River along with its tributaries provided cheap transport for the growth of internal trade in silk products.

The standing and predominance of the Malda and Murshidabad silk were seen by everybody, especially of the English Company, which opened their silk production line at Kasimbazar in 1658. The Kasimbazar manufacturing plant assumed a prevailing function for in excess of 200 years throughout the entire existence of silk industry of Bengal. Since its establishment, the English gained a fast ground in silk exchange resentment of the opposition of the Dutch. Initially, the Dutch Company was the fundamental buyer of Bengal silk; however the English Company took a distinct lead in the second 50% of the eighteenth century. (Glamann, 1958) The challenges of correspondence and the idleness of work had assisted with making the provincial area of Bengal independent. In any case, there was a broad unfamiliar and inland exchange which both the occupants of the territory and individuals coming from the outside partook. The fare exchange was carried on by a large group of shippers who came from various locales of Europe, as likewise of Asia. Individuals from different pieces of India - Punjab, Gujrat, Sind, Agra and Marwar came to Bengal looking for abundance, and a large number of them were enhanced past their desire. A portion of the vendor globe-trotters, similar to the 'Seths of Murshidabad', got comfortable the area and turned into the

organizers of a trade privileged. (Bhattacharya, 1969, pp.125-26)

For Indrajit Roy, Bengal silks got a more extensive market during 1660-1757 yet Golden Era begins from 1717 from the rule of Murshid Quli Khan (1717-1727) because of the Dutch and English East India Companies who set up their lasting industrial facilities in Bengal around the mid-seventeenth century. The Dutch presented its first in Japan, and hence in Europe, giving the article a significant space in their exchange (Om Prakash, 1978). As indicated by Bal Krishna, the English Company wandered it to the European market from the earliest starting point. Europe acknowledged Bengal silks rapidly due to the unconcerned quality and greater expenses of Persian silk that came about because of the state imposing business model and 'inside insurgencies, turmoil and rebellion' during the second 50% of the seventeenth century. Silks from Italy, France and China, different contenders of notoriety, were better than Bengal silks, however got just hardly more exorbitant costs on the lookout. Because of its considerably cheaper value, dealers thusly gave it a position of noticeable quality. K.N. Chaudhuri has developed a period arrangement of cost for Bengal silk during 1669-1760 by flattening the in-voice estimations of British silk import from Bengal. They hence speak to the normal c.i.f. costs of Bengal silks in England. The item assortment was, in any case, controlled by the spot of assembling and the collect by the period of production.

Since, the extents between the occasional and yearly creations and between the area level and territory level creations remained genuinely stable over the long haul; we may sensibly expect a steady arrangement of all out yield in regard of item assortment and gather. It was likewise steady from the perspective of fineness since the extent of 'head' or 'paunch' in green cases that decided the fineness of the last yield was consistent. Thus, there should exist balanced connection between the normal cost and the amount of yield with the goal that the idea of normal value holds hypothetically solid. For Bal Krishna, Britain's import arrangement of crude silks as far as these variations appears to be genuinely steady as it was dictated by customer interest and the condition of innovation, the two of which were consistent as time goes on period. Concerning item assortment, the main critical change that has been accounted for was the more import of Gujrati silk in 1735 when the taste was adjusted and the innovation got strong (Sushil Chaudhury, 1957). Under these conditions, the normal costs, as worked out by K. N. Chaudhuri, bear a novel connection with the amounts of fare, and are genuinely illustrative of the decision costs in Bengal. Conversely, a haphazardly picked cost at some random purpose of time in a year might be one-sided toward any path relying on the particular interest and flexibility arrangements by then of time. The subject of distinguishing important market influences behind the adjustment in cost is settled here based on the amount of fare. An ascent in cost related with higher volume of fare is viewed as a result of higher market interest while the flexibility factors are considered capable when an ascent in cost is related with a lower trade volume.

As per Om Prakash, the cost of this assortment has gone even past that of the best grade metallic silk. These bottlenecks appear to have been the result of the revolt by Sobha Singh, the Zaminder, who kept the region under control during 1695-97. Indeed, the English Company couldn't import a

solitary ounce of Bengal silk in 1696 since both Kasimbazar and Radhanagar were in grave problem. As per Abdul Karim, 1963 ensuing occasions were similarly terrible. The new Subahdhar Prince Azim-us-Shan who controlled the revolt included generously in close to home exchange. He blackmailed merchandise from traders and craftsmans, obliterating the matter of both English and Dutch Companies. The English Company neglected to embrace silk business in 1699 too. The problem reached a conclusion simply after the mediation of the Emperor who reproved the Subahdhar and diminished his position by 1000 ponies. The value situation in Bengal deteriorated for the following 35 years. At the point when Murshid Quli Khan connects with as a subedar of Bangla, Bihar and Orissa by Mughal sovereign, at that point Silk industry of Murshidabad continue its excursion for Golden period.

An expanded progression of specie may build the cost of a product in two different ways. It may raise the costs of compensation merchandise, in this way causing greater expense cost of the ware. Regardless of whether we don't perceive this method of causation, the higher powerful interest that follows from added stream of specie is relied upon to help up the interest cost of the item. This line of causation expects centrality here since a large part of the specie that flew into Bengal during this period was intended for crude silk. K.N. Chaudhuri's information shows that this article represented just about a fourth of the English Company's total import from this area. It was likewise a chief article in the contemporary Dutch product. These organizations together raised the successful interest for Bengal silk from the mid-seventeenth century. As per Sushil Chaudhury this isn't to deny the function of Indian merchants around here. From the period a whole lot sooner to this, Indian merchants from Gujrat, Delhi, Agra, Lahore and so on traded valuable metal for Bengal silk. Notwithstanding, added billion from European houses, upgraded rivalry among purchasers, changing over it into a dealers' market.

At the clarification of the cost dependability during 1708-43, we obtain the postulation of Om Prakash that the rising flexibility of cash in this period was related with rising yield so the chance of value heightening was invalidated. All things considered, imported valuable metal truly turns into an instrument of development with the reserve funds, speculation and creation in the economy enlisting an expansion. K.N.

Chaudhuri's value arrangement is worried about the best quality crude silks that were sent out from Bengal and that additionally at the c.i.f. rate, with the goal that they should score over the decision rates in Bengal. As per K.M Mohosin, 1769 the normal cost of crude silks that non-European merchants traded from Bengal was, as per W. Aldersay of Kasimbazar industrial facility, 9s. per pound in 1749-53.

To conclude, I would like to say that, on the off chance that we see the entire conversation than come to realize that how the silk business fills in Murshidabad at Nawab's rule. The skirmish of Plassey changed the political situation of Bengal and the obtaining of 'Dewani' in 1765 made the English Company sovereign both in the political and monetary circles. The Company empowered the creation of crude silk rather than silk piece-merchandise and accordingly the silk weavers of Malda and Murshidabad were tossed out of business. Presently, the 'Dewani' made the Company monetarily dissolvable and with the couple of special cases at the hour of battle, there was no compelling reason to rely upon the indigenous vendors for their venture. Nor was money acquired from England to proceed with the Bengal exchange. It caused the financial destruction of North Bengal. (Sinha, 1962, p.54) The agribusiness of the nation separated. The approach of the British Government and the exchange strategy of the Company with the starvation of 1770 exacerbated the monetary situation of Bengal and at last India lost her financial dependability. "...it (the silk development) gave work to quite a long while to huge numbers of the individuals who had lost their occupation in cotton industry because of its decay." (Datta, 1961, p.89) "... up to 1830 India traded more woven silk merchandise than she imported, however since 1840 her silk products have been slowly removed from both the inward and outside business sectors." (Vera, 1952, p.284) The market influences once empowered the development of silk industry during the pre-frontier and early pilgrim stages and Bengal increased monetary soundness through this industry. In any case, in the period of full imperialism India which was the 'center of a huge portion of the world's trade, lost her position and the mulberry grower, the case rearers, the silk-reelers, the weavers, the indigenous shipper men, all who were associated with this industry, likewise lost their monetary base because of the financial separation brought about by pioneer economy under the Company.

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