

Revitalizing the Khadi Sector in Village Industries of Assam:

The Significance of Gandhian Principles

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Abstract

Khadi is more than just a fabric; it holds significant historical importance within the realm of Gandhian studies. Recent studies and reports conducted by various government agencies in India highlight the potential of the Khadi sector to create employment opportunities and generate income for rural communities. Despite the Government of India's efforts, including the establishment of the Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC), the challenges faced by individuals involved in the Khadi industry persist. In light of these circumstances, the objective of this study is to examine the relevance of the Gandhian approach in fostering the development of the Khadi industry, focusing on the Khadi and Village Industry Units in Assam that are registered under the KVIC.

Keywords: Covid-19, Informal Economy, Self-reliant, Rural-urban Migration, Rural Empowerment

Introduction

The global community is currently grappling with the far-reaching consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, both in terms of economy and public health. In India, the impact of the pandemic has been particularly severe on the informal economy (Kakati, 2021). As the outbreak unfolded, a significant number of informal workers in urban areas were compelled to return to their hometowns, resulting in wage reductions, changes in intra-household work dynamics, labour allocation, and a setback to women's

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