Industrial Contributions to Lyallpur's Economic Transformation (1947-77): An Analysis of Cotton and its Associated Industries

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the industrialization process and its contribution economic transition of Lyallpur. Cotton, Spinning, Hosiery and Agricultural engineering industry was implanted majorly especially when Lyallpur was declared as tax free zone and gradually it emerged as greatest industrial hub of Pakistan. Industrialization enriched the position of industry and production of agro based industry. This study enumerates that how these industries played vital role in economic transition of Pakistan and specifically in Lyallpur. A mixed method research approach is used in this research as quantitative data is taken from primary sources of five years plans and Pakistan Bureau of Statistics majorly while secondary sources also used for qualitative analysis of city as well as industries. This study observes that industry grown well but due to vague implementations of proposed advancements it faced problems in rapid growth. Later on, taxes were imposed on production and on the imports of industrial machinery as well as raw material, which hindered the rapid growth of industry, as it was during the Ayub era. This research recommends that special budget should be reserved by government for industries and imported machinery should be given rebates as well as taxable income should be excluded.

***Keywords:* Lyallpur, Industrialization, Cotton, Hosiery, Agricultural Engineering, Spinning Industry, Economic Transition**

Introduction

Lyallpur turned as Faisalabad in 1977 is famous not only for its agricultural cultivation but also recognized for its well versed industries (Iqbal, Mushtaq, & Khan, 2018). Agriculturally it produces a variety of cotton, a large amount of wheat and its flour, different qualities of sugarcane, several vegetables, oil seed, and different kinds of fruits. Its major industries includes cotton industry, spinning industry, weaving industry, hosiery industry, repair yards, agricultural engineering industry and ghee and vegetable oil industry.

The city served as agricultural and industrial hub both prior and after the independence of Pakistan. "It is posited that all eminent societies flourished due to their foundational terrain while geography is believed to influence actions, responses, pressures, and societal demands in relation to environmental changes" (Morris, 2010). The adage suggests that regional structure also influences advancements and it could be witnesses from Lyallpur as since 1904, the city had developed agriculture, while then advanced its industrial sector. Historians accurately asserted that Lyallpur (Faisalabad) was the greatest industrial zone in Pakistan and still it is renowned as 'Manchester of Pakistan' (Christophe, 2002).

This research explores the multifaceted contributions industries in Lyallpur's economic transition and aims to analyze how these sectors evolved in the post-independence era, and its impact on Pakistan. The study adopts a qualitative as well as quantitative approach, employing a combination of primary and secondary sources. Archival documents, government reports, and statistical records are included as well as secondary sources, including books, academic articles, and newspapers from the period under study, are analyzed to contextualize the industrial growth. This research addresses how cotton, spinning and hosiery industries contributed to the economic growth of Lyallpur during 1947-77 and how agricultural engineering industries supported and influenced the agrarian economy?

Pre-Independence Advancements

The Punjab's annexation in 1849 marked the commencement of British rule in the region. During second half of the 19th century as well in early half 47 years of 20th century, up till the partition of India, Punjab experienced significant improvements. In relation to Pakistani Punjab, these regions typically associated with British rule including Lyallpur, Montgomery, and Jhang. During the mid-1880s, due to irrigation initiatives, Punjab was governed directly by the British and underwent significant transformations and development. The irrigation projects facilitated the development of the Doabs in Southwestern Punjab, which became some of the most fertile agricultural plains and it encompassed notable cities such as Lyallpur, Montgomery, and Jhang, which are still located in Pakistani Punjab (Zaigham, 1996) having name as Faisalabad, Sahiwal and Jhang vice versa. These sites were chosen for specific purposes to create a productive area based on agricultural capacity and their valuable locations.

Lyallpur was designated for industrial development and prior to independence, the city hosted various industries, including cotton, textiles, agricultural engineering, yarn and spinning, knitting, flour milling, sugar production, oil extraction, cement manufacturing, chemicals, glass, plastics, and iron. The industry significantly contributed and enhanced urban infrastructure. Pippa Virdee stated that Chenab Colony development commenced to yield results and certain industries emerged. In 1912, Lyallpur housed merely 11 factories that were based on cotton ginning and pressing. By 1935, the enterprises rose to 25, with most still focusing on cotton ginning and pressing, and some of oil, and sugar mills. It was evident that the industry of pre-partition Lyallpur was primarily characterized by cotton production, a trend that was persisted in the post-partition era (Virdee, 2004).

Post-Independence Progressions

Since the inception of Pakistan, the country saw numerous challenges as it was an agrarian state with insufficient investment to promptly establish new industries. The absence of industry resulted in a scarcity of many imported goods while to address local demands, cities such as Lyallpur, Karachi, and Lahore began to extricate the country from this predicament. Lyallpur significantly contributed in industrial development, as it was already an established industrial zone.

The country required significant industrialization for swift development as generally agricultural nations remained underdeveloped. The industrial growth progressed rapidly as Jinnah stated at the inauguration of Valika Textile Mills Ltd. on September 26, 1947, that "if Pakistan is to fulfil its rightful role in the world, commensurate with its size, manpower, and resources, it must cultivate its industrial potential alongside agriculture and impart an industrial orientation to its economy. Industrializing our State will reduce our reliance on external sources for goods, provides greater job opportunities for people, and enhances the State resources" (DAWN, 1947).

In 1947, predominant agricultural crops included wheat, rice, cotton, Jute and maize in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and West Pakistan (now Pakistan). The West Pakistan was abundant in cotton, but it lacked a large cotton industry. The production of cotton yarn and the fabrication of other cotton products remained unproduced due to insufficient industrial capacity. The British Raj established approximately 921 industries in united India, yet, after partition, Pakistan acquired only 34. Lyallpur comprised only a single mill having name as Lyallpur Cotton Mills under the command of Delhi Cloth House (Iqbal, Mushtaq, & Khan, 2018).

Cotton Industry

Pakistan's Government emphasized the need of industrialization by convening a meeting in December 1947 and recommended the establishment of locally-based enterprises that utilize raw materials such as jute, cotton, and leather to produce value goods. They established objectives for the private sector by offering rebates and facilitating loan support as well as established the Development Board and the Pakistan Industrial and Credit Corporation in 1948. These works enhanced the efficacy of the investment that raised industrial contribution to GDP upto 6.9% in 1950.

Pakistan got merely 16 cotton mills from the 451 mills that existed in British India. Among these 16 mills, only a few were operational while cotton was Pakistan's principal cash crop and the predominant focus was on cotton along with its derivatives. In 1947, there were only 4,824 looms, which rose by 506 additional looms in 1950 in the country (Textile.gov.pk, 2016), but there was still need of further looms as the existing looms were not fulfilling the requirements of the country.

Lyallpur augmented its looms by around 46% of the newly established looms and expanded its cotton and textile sector from one mill to three mills within the same timeframe. In 1950, there were twenty-four cotton mills in the country, with just six or seven located in West Pakistan, including three major cotton and textile factories in Lyallpur. Over a span of three years, Lyallpur boosted its textile production and looms expanded the production of bales, resulting in an increase from 74,000 bales to 107,535 bales annually (Iqbal, History of Industirial Development in Lyallpur (1947-77), 2017).

The cotton business in Lyallpur augmented annual clothing production from 35,378,000 yards to 55,411,000 yards and this boom provided an opportunity to new investors. The importance of these mills was increased due to substantial profitability as a superior investment lied in this sector. Nevertheless, there were no exports during that period, but it significantly contributed to fulfilling internal requirements. The rise in the number of industries also augmented the country's GDP as the reported GDP gain was 6.9% in 1950, with 81% of the contribution originating from the western region, whereas Lyallpur accounted for around 39% from the west (Iqbal, History of Industirial Development in Lyallpur (1947-77), 2017).

The shortage of capital, technical expertise, and entrepreneurial spirit in the private sector resulted in sluggish investment during first five years of Pakistan. In 1952, the government initiated the establishment of the Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC, 2017) that soon led to a rise in industry and the emergence of new cotton industries in the country. The Ayub Agricultural Research Institute significantly promoted the cotton production and its associated business in Lyallpur. The institution established a new avenue in cotton production and the quantity of looms rose from 5,904 to 26,000 between 1951 and 1955. During this five-year period, a new cotton and textile mill was established, augmenting the output of bales and garments. Clothing output rose from 70,053,000 yards to 389,436,000 yards (GOP, 2017) and the timeline commenced with exports from West Pakistan to East Pakistan to satisfy local demands.

Political instability was another factor leading to slow development but the government devised First Five-Year Plan communicated new policies to the public for rapid industrialization and further subsidized the emerging industry. During 1956-1960, the cotton sector, particularly in Lyallpur, expanded significantly, with the number of cotton and textile enterprises rising from four to seventy-two. That era marked a significant surge in the industrial history of Lyallpur and this surge was attributed to the latest technology and the introduction of new cotton types, including AC-134 and L-11, in the city. The yarn production rose from 12.4 metric tons to 16 metric tons and textile production increased to 544,216,000 yards from 438,389,000 yards (Iqbal, History of Industirial Development in Lyallpur (1947-77), 2017).

Over the decade, the industries' contribution to GDP rose from 9.7% to 11.9% as both wings of Pakistan expanded their industrial sectors. West Pakistan initiated fabric exports to foreign nations so the cotton industry in West Pakistan and the jute industry in East Pakistan served as the foundations of industrial development. Approximately 69% of industrial GDP was attained from western region, with Lyallpur accounting for 37% of the contribution (Pakistan, 1960).

During 1961-1965, the government presented the second five-year plan, but the plan and its regulations were modified later. Multiple subsidies were eliminated from the plan as it provided in first five year plan, while new subsidies were incorporated. Subsidies were allocated for many emerging industries, including cement, engineering, mining, oil, as well as agriculture. This factor indicated a transformation in the cotton sector, with industrial expansion diminishing compared to the preceding decade. Only 11 new cotton and textile industries were established in Lyallpur, but the production of yarn and fabric rose by approximately 7% to 9% (Pakistan, Third Five Year Plan, 1965). However, in economic contribution, industrial sector's percentage remained unchanged from the preceding five years.

In subsequent years, a new policy was implemented, and machinery was brought for various new industries and the cotton industry in Lyallpur expanded from 83 mills to 107 mills. Unfortunately, war broke out between India and Pakistan and the production of yarn and textiles diminished at the conclusion of 1965 as a result of the said conflict. Within short span of time, the situation was stabilized, and industry resumed operations as well as the Third Five-Year Plan facilitated subsequent initiatives, leading to the resumption of manufacturing. The production of yarn rose to 27.3 metric tons from 19.4 metric tons after 1965. The GDP reduced due to the conflict, but Lyallpur maintained its contribution (Pakistan, Fourth Five Year Plan, 1970).

In 1971, once again war started between India and Pakistan that culminated in the division of East and West Pakistan. The separation of East Pakistan resulted in a decline in industrial performance, production, growth, and exports, which remained unsatisfactory from 1971 to 1977. The loss of the East Pakistan market resulted in rupee devaluation of up to 131% as well as the war halted international aid and hindered effective exports. The focus of the Government was shifted towards new constitution, rendering the fourth five-year plan ineffective in effecting substantial industrial development. Additional factors contributing to low industrial development were the nationalization of industries, labor unrest, a recession in global markets, and a decrease in investment incentives. These factors created unrest and diminished GDP as well as annual industrial growth, resulting in a decline of 2.8% (Iqbal, History of Industirial Development in Lyallpur (1947-77), 2017).

During the early 1970s, Lyallpur had 113 cotton industries, which increased to 140 by 1978, representing the lowest growth rate in preceding years. The production of cotton yarn diminished due to a reduction in the quantity of cotton available in the country and textile production was declined from 628,189,000 yards to 391,347,000 yards per annum. Nonetheless, the situation was still managed by Lyallpur city, which accounted for 68% of textile and cotton production of the country.

Spinning Industry

Spinning deals with the commencing for the chain of weaving, knitting, processing, clothing, and made-ups. Pakistan benefitted from its inheritance of cotton, ranked fourth largest cotton grower globally and third in yarn production in 2017, boasting significant spinning capacity in Asia. Pakistan accounted for 5% of global spinning capacity so the spinning business of Pakistan satisfies home industry demands and also exports to foreign markets.

At the eve of independence, only six spinning factories were allocated to Pakistan that possessed merely 177,148 spindles yet operated more efficiently and sustained their operations. The Lyallpur Cotton Mill operated in Lyallpur and comprised various departments and only this mill had operational spinning sector. Of the 177,148 spindles in the country, approximately 78,000 were based exclusively in Lyallpur in 1947 (GOP, 2017).

Pakistan's abundant cotton and jute resources contributed to a robust growth rate in the textile sector and the spindles were the primary instruments for yarn production. The rise of cotton and textile mills necessitated an expansion of the spinning sector so the spinning industry surged to 290,280 spindles in 1950. The Lyallpur's contribution was also raised by 78,000 spindles to 182,000 spindles within these three years. It propelled the city's industry towards enhanced development and the expanded the business and contribution to GDP (Iqbal, History of Industirial Development in Lyallpur (1947-77), 2017).

During first five years of 1950s, the spinning industry of Lyallpur reached its zenith with approximate 155% rise in the quantity of spindles. In 1951, there were 225,000 spindles, which increased to 1,449,000 spindles by 1955 and this alteration initiated a novel trend in the textile sector, leading Lyallpur to export its spun yarn to many domestic cities and international markets. During the subsequent five years of the decade, there was minimal change in the city, and the expansion of the spinning industry did not occur significantly and only 4% increase occurred in the spinning industry, resulting in a total of 1,586,000 spindles.

The aforementioned GDP gain of 11.9% was significantly attributed to Lyallpur's textile industry and this was fundamentally reliant on advancements in cotton and spinning, with Lyallpur's spinning sector significantly contributing to this development. During 1960-1965, the spinning industry did not expand as it expended previously in the city due to the demand for spindles being concentrated on Karachi and Lahore. Nonetheless, a 15% upsurge was still witnessed in Lyallpur, with spindles rising to 1,967,000 (Iqbal, History of Industirial Development in Lyallpur (1947-77), 2017). The reason for the decline in spindles was the 1965 war, which significantly diminished GDP.

Within 1965-1970, the spinning industry of Lyallpur was projected to grow by around 31%, resulting in a total of 2,397,000 spindles. This was the period during which the third five-year plan was implemented in the country, and Ayub Khan's government once more subsidized industry. The 1960s, however, exhibited a lower GDP compared to the 1950s still Lyallpur continued to play a significant industrial role in the country, maintaining its contribution to GDP at the same level as the preceding decade (Pakistan, Fourth Five Year Plan, 1970).

After partition of East Pakistan, the industry was divided between the two nations, Pakistan and Bangladesh, but the spinning sector was not adversely affected. A significant segment of the spinning sector was located in Lyallpur and continued to see growth. In 1971, Lyallpur housed 2,605,000 spindles, constituting around 47.9% of the country's total spindles. Lyallpur had more contribution to exports, while local demands were satisfied in the same proportion. In 1977, the number of spindles was raised to 3,585,000 and the number of increased spindles in Lyallpur was almost 500% from the time of independence (Iqbal, History of Industirial Development in Lyallpur (1947-77), 2017).

Hosiery Industry

In textiles, hosiery is a category of cloth typically utilized as underwear. This industry significantly contributed to both exports and the nation's GDP. These industries demonstrated the expansion of economy as a result of their advancement. In 1947, Pakistan had two hosiery manufacturing industries in Lyallpur. The hosiery industries were not independently focused but over the time, the hosiery industry in the city had seen significant changes, playing a notable role in the history of textiles.

In first three years, the hosiery industry in Lyallpur experienced no changes and produced less than the local demand. In 1950s, the hosiery industry demonstrated its capabilities and commenced large-scale production when new textiles industry encompassed knitwear manufacturing facilities and associated initiatives. During that decade, the number of textile industries increased from two to seventy, but only five to six hosiery industries were present. There were no exports in this industry as it was still underdeveloped domestically.

In 1960, the business began to ascend when West Pakistan shipped hosiery to East Pakistan for the first time and this time PHMEA actively contributed to this enhancement (Iqbal, History of Industirial Development in Lyallpur (1947-77), 2017). In the 1960s, the country received cash from knitwear produced in West Pakistan and Lyallpur exhibited an almost 100% rise. Numerous investments were made independently for the hosiery sector while the production of hosiery items was substantial, with thousands of towels, millions of socks, and thousands of jerseys. These items were created for local use and to fulfil orders from East Pakistan. Approximately 7,680,000 dozen items of knitwear, including socks, towels, and various undergarments, were produced and hosiery industry contributed approximately $166.2 million in the 1960s (Pakistan, 1960).

The 1970s saw a significant transformation in hosiery business when prominent entities such as Crescent Group, Regent, and Saigol Groups established their hosiery operations in Lyallpur. Shortly, the USA and UK visited Pakistan for the procurement of knitwear, which marked the commencement of the hosiery industry's ascent to its zenith. They initially bought T-shirts and subsequently modified to include substantial quantities of more hosiery goods. The economic survey of Pakistan indicated that Pakistan's hosiery began contributing to exports in the 1970s, valued at $166.2 million rose to $2.36 billion (Finance, 2017).

A significant change in knitwear exports elevated the prominence of the hosiery business, resulting in a swift transformation so 39 new industries were established in Lyallpur. This augmented number also increased volume of hosiery products. In the 1970s, approximately 15,719,000 dozen hosiery products were produced, with 53.9% of the output attributed to Lyallpur so the city contributed approximately $1.59 billion in the 1970s (TDAP, 2017). Lyallpur remained increasingly proficient in the hosiery business and since 2017 accounted for over 45% of Pakistan's hosiery products for both domestic and export markets.

Agricultural Engineering Sector

Lyallpur city was founded for agricultural purposes and demonstrated significant advancements in agricultural reforms both before and after the partition. The 1948 land census indicated that District Lyallpur contributed approximately 17% of wheat, 23% of cotton, and 13.9% of maize from West Pakistan. Pakistan is an agrarian nation, with agriculture contributing 21% to its GDP (PBS, 2016) and Lyallpur played significant role in agriculture.

The agricultural condition of Pakistan deteriorated after partition. To satisfy the food demands in early years, it was necessary to augment the quantity of grains. Augmenting quantity was unfeasible without the introduction of new tools and a revised method for bowing so Pakistan focused to enhance its agricultural engineering sector. Significant quantities of grains and crops were obliterated owing to conflict and negligence in agricultural practices. Though grain and crop harvests were exceedingly low and farmers and peasants tried to quickly regained control over the situation. However, the situation remained unfavorable due to antiquated agricultural methods. There was a scarcity of tractors and agricultural machines throughout the country as well as there was not a single machinery industry to fulfil the requirements. In 1950, only one industry was established in Rahim Yar Khan.

Lyallpur had no contributions during the first 12 years of the country. In 1959, finally the city commenced its manufacturing operations in the agricultural engineering sector. However, it was one of the largest agricultural engineering industries of the country. It concentrated on augmenting the quantity of tractors and drillers and machinery was imported on a larger scale to transport a significant volume of components throughout the city. Simultaneously, numerous tube wells were installed and Lyallpur experienced significant transformation with the addition of 5,000 new tube wells, resulting in enhanced yield (Iqbal, History of Industirial Development in Lyallpur (1947-77), 2017).

This industry contributed to agriculture, resulting in a yield rise of almost 40% in 1960. The government proclaimed its plan to focus on the agricultural engineering business so a research Centre was established in Lyallpur in 1961. This was the crucial step in the advancement of the agricultural engineering sector. Several kind of research facilitated advancements in this business, and by the 1960s, there were 17 agricultural engineering enterprises specializing in tube wells, threshers, tractors, and chaff cutters. In 1960s, approximately 21.5% of agricultural implements were supplied by Lyallpur (PBS, 2017).

In the same decade, the government offered rebate on machinery imports as part of the second five-year plan. In 1964, the Agricultural Engineering Research Division was formed in Lyallpur and research centers started in University of Agriculture Lyallpur as well as conducted additional studies to enhance these tools. Lyallpur had addressed several issues faced by farmers and peasants as research centers designated specific individuals for guiding and educating the farmers (Iqbal, History of Industirial Development in Lyallpur (1947-77), 2017).

The advancement in agricultural engineering from 1971 to 1978 was not evident in Lyallpur while in other sectors, the same period was renowned for advancements. Approximately 29 industries operated in Lyallpur, the largest concentration in Punjab province and these industries produced tractors, cultivators, ploughs, harrows, ridgers, trailers, tube wells, and lift pumps. The government gave machinery to small farmers through manageable installment plans for better yield. The Lyallpur Agricultural Machinery Division (AMD) was formed and then the city established its significance in the agricultural machinery market and commenced exporting machinery to Afghanistan and other Central Asian nations. In 1977, approximately 44,367 agricultural tools were sold, of which 11,229 were contributed by Lyallpur (ADBP, 2017). The exports fostered industrial development and augmented the GDP by contributing a 2.9% through agricultural engineering industry (GOP, 2017).

Conclusion

The economic transition of Lyallpur during early three decades (1947-1977) highlighted a transformative period in the city's industrial landscape, underscored by the impressive growth of the cotton, spinning, and hosiery industries. These sectors caused the upsurge of Lyallpur's economy, creating a strong industrial base, not only supported local needs but also contributed significantly to the national GDP.

The cotton industry particularly centralized with its large-scale operations. The city initiated well-established mills that anchored the city's economic activities related to cotton. Spinning industry also complemented this growth, facilitating an integrated textile value chain and establishing Lyallpur as a prominent textile hub of Pakistan. This synergy between cotton and spinning fueled further advancements and made this city one of major contributors to both local markets and international exports.

The hosiery industry also thrived during 1960s and 1970s, leveraging both the raw material from the textile sector and skilled labor from the surrounding areas. By the late 1960s, Lyallpur had developed a reputation for quality hosiery products, which found markets like UK and USA. The city's hosiery exports played an instrumental role in bringing in foreign exchange that played vital role in Pakistan's economic stability. This sector's success demonstrated the potential of Lyallpur's industries in economic growth of the country and positioning Pakistan as an emerging industrial nation.

In contrast, the agricultural engineering sector, though crucial to Pakistan's broader economic goals of modernizing agriculture, did not experience better growth. The limited progress in this sector during early 12 years of the country could be attributed to several factors, including insufficient investment, inadequate technological support, and a shortage of skilled labor specializing in agricultural machinery production. However, later on, the Lyallpur started this industry and formed some research based institutions to counter the challenges constrained its ability to grow different commodities. Consequently, the agricultural engineering sector's impact on the regional economy rose when Lyallpur started to export agricultural tools to Asian countries but the GDP contribution remained minimal.

Despite early economic and political disparities in Pakistan, Lyallpur's overall contributions to Pakistan's GDP during 1947-77 was substantial. The city's industrial sectors collectively provided a stable economic foundation, created employment opportunities, promoted urban development, and fostered a burgeoning middle class. Lyallpur's economic achievements reflected the successful industrial policies especially during the period of Ayub Khan. It also underscored the potential of regional industrial hubs to drive national growth. The city's legacy as an industrial hub laid the groundwork for making it as 'Manchester of Pakistan'.

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