

# Enhancement of the Industrial Sector of India through Stone Industry

## Abstract

India, the home of plentiful natural resources, gets the status of an underdeveloped nation leading fast towards the economic development that wins a nation the status of being developed. The past of the country is full of hurdles that prevented it from being developed despite having all natural resources handy and available, but the current picture of the ongoing forms of development in the country is enthusiastic, and it is being hoped that the day when India is counted in the list of the developed nations of the world is not very far. For the complete, perfect and all sided development of India and its straggling economy several sectors are working together, each of which is a prime sector in itself for the purpose, but the role and contribution of the industrial sector in order to make a very speedy development, cannot be denied and ignored. The industrial sector, constituted by several small and large scales, as a whole, is the most leading sector which has created numerous hopes in the enthusiasts and policy makers that very soon India is going to be honoured as a developed nation, being free from the blur of being a developing or underdeveloped nation.

The stone industry in India is one of the most popular industries that has not only attracted the other countries of the world towards it, but also motivated them to generate it in various forms for the purpose of profit in addition to the other purposes. The purpose of the stone industry is both to manufacture stone for the domestic use and to make profit through it by generating a better market system India.

A comprehensive study in nature, the paper is descriptive, interpretative and analytical in its nature, prepared with a view to make a reflection on the stone industry. The objective of the paper is to focus on the aspects of the stone industry that are making it a leading agency for the development of the nation, and that are helpful in providing strength to the industrial sector enabling it to generate an international market. The paper has a national and international significance

**Keywords:** Natural Resources, All-Sided Development, Revenue, Cottage Industry, Small Scale Industry, Large Scale Industry, Developed, Underdeveloped and Undeveloped Nations, Straggling Economy.

## Introduction

India is a country which is endowed with high quality natural stones like marble, sandstone, granite etc. The nation is characterized as the home to inexhaustible resources of various types of dimensional stones which is dissipated in throughout the country. India has more than 11% export share in total world's total stone export. It produces more than 27% of the total stones produced in throughout the world. India is recognized as one of the largest raw stone material producer. India is a place of different types of dimensional stones which include marble, granite, sandstone, slate, limestone and quartzite that are widespread in every corner of the nation. As per estimation Indian stone industry is estimated to be more than Rs 3,200 crore processing stones. Indian monuments are supplied in more than 25 nations throughout the world. India encompasses around 32 various varieties of granite for monuments and more than 90% of them can be find in 3 southern states- Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. More than 95 percent monument factories are situated in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Tamil Nadu shares around 75 percent. There are around 150 units located in Tamil Nadu. India is a renowned producer of natural dimensional stones, possessing excellent physical and chemical characteristics. One can find out the enormous opportunities waiting to be geared in the stone industry. Stones like granites,

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marbles, sandstones, limestones, slate stones etc. are characterized as one of the best quality stones in all over world. In present date stone industry is recognized as one of the fastest growing sector in the Indian economy.

#### **Types of Stone Available in India**

There are various types of stones with sparkling appearance and fine finishing available in different places of India. Have a look on some types of stones which are found within the Indian Territory.

1. Marble deposits can be found in various parts of India with economically high deposits concentrated in the states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh. New varieties of marbles are found and are gradually being developed in Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Rajasthan has a huge concentration of marble with reserves dissipated in various districts of Nagaur, Udaipur, Rajsamand, Banswara, Dungarpur, Jaipur, Sirohi, Bhilwara, Ajmer, Bundi, Alwar and Pali. The different colors found in Rajasthan marbles are Makrana Albata White, Green, Makrana Kumari White, Makrana Dungri White, Jhiri Onyx, Phalodi Pink, Ambaji White, Indo-Italian, Babarmal Pink, Bhainslana Black, Forest Green, Forest Brown, and Agaria White.
2. Granite multicolor varieties of granite can be easily seen in the states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. India has huge reserves of one of the best quality of granite with varied varieties, having more than 200 shades. More than 20% of world's granite is found in India. The nation holds the no.1 rank as a largest granite and granite products exporter.
3. Sandstone deposits are available in the states of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. More than 90% of sandstone deposits are available in Rajasthan, which are spread in the districts of Dholpur, Bharatpur, Kota, Jodhpur, Sawai-Madhupur, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Bikaner, Jhalawar, Pali, and Jaisalmer.
4. Slate deposits are available in Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. Slate depository in Rajasthan is found in Alwar, Ajmer, Bharatpur, Tonk, Sawai Madhopur, Pali, Udaipur, Churu, and Chittorgarh.
5. Limestone deposits are found in large quantity in state Andhra Pradesh. It accounts to more than 32% of country's total limestone reserves. The state's limestone reserve is calculated to be nearly 93,623 million tonnes.

#### **Problems in the Path of The Indian Stone Industry**

India is the third largest producer of natural stones still the Indian industry holds less than 10% share in world market. In spite of holding vast natural resources of stones and a pool of good craftsmen, the Indian stone industry is facing stiff competition from China. The China is importing rough stones from India

and export it by adding some value in it. The height of China's stone market is increasing day by day due to the positive outcome of its government policy, low cost funding and various economies of scale which has finally benefited its stone industry. China holds about 98% market share in Japan's monument market. Stalwarts of industry are of opinion that the major constraints coming in the success path of Indian stone industry are the lack of good quality of infrastructure. The government's policies are somehow remaining unsatisfactory in keeping the Indian stone industry on a positive note. The Indian government is required to be adopt more scientific and technological view towards its stone industry. Industry demands using of scientific ways, quarrying practices in upgrading its sector. The industry should adopt latest technology for curtailing down its cost and finally improving its quality.

#### **Objective of the Study**

Estimating the enhancement of the industrial sector in the context of the flourishing stone industry, available natural resources, manpower, availability of the market for the concerned industry, current status of the stone industry in the world industrial sector as well as in India, and the future of the stone industry in India.

#### **Overview of Literature**

Dr. Kalpana Agrawal & Parupriya Singh Gaharwar (July, 2013) in their study A Study on Trend of Export of Natural Stones from India to Various Countries find out that Natural Stone is a huge market that gives space to all kinds of export activities in the realm of Indian natural stone exports. They provide comprehensive solution to all the clients. Moreover, they need to bring out natural stones that conform to the international standard to cater to the needs of international clients. That is the reason it is a common sight to see the presence of multiple experts at the factories set by a mosaic exporter, Indian marble exporter, limestone exporter, quartzite stone exporter; and the suppliers of different stones like sandstone supplier, or in a nutshell natural stone suppliers. These certified professionals are needed to bring about the international standard desired by the customers all across. The business needs are such that in most of the cases suppliers and exporters get all the activities done from their own end.

Government of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (2017), Towards sustainable and lasting Growth, Annual Report (2016-17) says that Principal commodities like newsprint, wool, raw, fresh fruits, marine products, groundnut, paint, varnish & allied products, agro chemicals, spices, aluminium & products of aluminium, inorganic chemicals, cereal preparations, processed vegetables, auto tyres & tubes, fresh vegetables, plastic raw materials, drug formulations & biological, buffalo meat, leather footwear component etc. have shown positive growth in both value and volume terms. However, certain principal commodities like granite, natural stone & products, sesame seeds, castor oil, pulp & waste paper, other miscellaneous chemicals, petroleum products, cashew nut shell liquid, guar gum meal etc.

have recorded positive growth in volume terms even though exports in value terms have been negative.

GRAVIS(2010) in the study Women Miners in Rajasthan, India: A Reflection on their life, challenges and future, reports that as mining and many other trades continue to be important livelihood options and revenue sources, there is a greater need of working for gender based equity within these environments and for empowering women to enable them to live with dignity and self-respect. It is never too late though. There is a certainly a great opportunity and potential to recollect from past experiences and develop a future approach based on past learning. It is important to understand that activities focusing on women's rights in mines have a long way to go and there is a need of thorough planning, time-bound visioning and extensive networking and gradual proceeding. It is important to realize the value of some of the recent initiatives revolving around awareness generation, forming Self Help Groups and empowering the groups through microcredit and trainings and provision of healthcare services. It is important to be prepared to work continually to improve the quality of these interventions through gradual learning, consultations and exchange of ideas. Most importantly, it is important to remember that a strong will and a long-term advocacy effort will be required to make change, and to remind that advocacy is about continuity.

IBEF, Gems and Jewellery Industry in India (January, 2018) reports-

1. India is one of the largest exporters of gems and jewellery and the industry is considered to play a vital role in the Indian economy as it contributes a major chunk to the total foreign reserves of the country.
2. Net exports of gems and jewellery from India rose at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.01 per cent between FY05 and FY17.
3. The net exports rose from US\$ 15.66 billion in FY 2004-05 to US\$ 35.59 billion in FY 2016-17.
4. The overall net exports stood at US\$ 35.59 billion during FY 2016-17 registering a growth of 9.07 per cent over FY 2015-16.
5. US, Hong Kong and UAE accounted for 75 per cent of the total gems and jewellery exports from India during FY 2016-17.

World Bank. Minding the stock: bringing public policy to bear on livestock sector development. Washington, DC: (2009) reported that Livestock systems have both positive and negative effects on the natural resource base, public health, social equity and economic growth (World Bank 2009). Currently, livestock is one of the fastest growing agricultural subsectors in developing countries. Its share of agricultural GDP is already 33 per cent and is quickly increasing. This growth is driven by the rapidly increasing demand for livestock products, this demand being driven by population growth, urbanization and increasing incomes in developing countries

#### **Hypothesis Formed for the Study**

1. Being a store of inexhaustible stock of stone and having a wide scope for the market for stone in

India and abroad, why does the stone industry fail to make India developed

2. Despite several governmental policies for the development of the stone industry, why is it lagging behind and what hurdles it still has in its path of progress

#### **Research Methodology**

With a view to producing the picture of the enhancing Indian industrial sector, the methodology adopted for the purpose exploring the role of the Indian stone industry in providing strength to the industrial sector for the purpose of preparing the nation to acclaim for its complete, perfect and all sided development, includes a comprehensive study of the literature on the theme available in various forms, setting the objectives in order to make a directional study, hypothesizing the study to be undertaken, collection and classifying the data, analysis and interpretation of the data from the various angles and in the various contexts. The central concern and focus is the economic analysis and interpretation as well as the economic comprehension and understanding of the state, national and international enhancement of the stone industry, and its contribution to the enhancement of the revenue and of course, to globalization that has brought the whole world at a single platform for the purpose of ensuring their economic interdependence.

#### **Economic Analysis and Interpretation**

Being interdisciplinary in approach, the study can be said to have its roots in the society, as the stone industry is developing in the society. The study is relevant, as it reveals an enthusiastic picture of those who are associated with the stone industry at the state, national and international levels. The stone industry in India has a great role to mould the Indian society and to transform it positively in a way to make it look as beautiful through the housing. It is the stone industry that through making the stone available, has replaced the kachcha houses by the pakka houses. The generation of the stone markets in the various parts of the country provide directly or indirectly a financial strength by ensuring an active involvement of the people in the concerned industry.

The industrial sector contributes a lot to the revenue and economy of the nation. The same is applicable to the economy of India which is strengthened by several industries, such as, small scale, large scale industries together. The Indian stone industry is playing a pivot role in the enhancement of the revenue through its market at the national and international levels. It is being helpful in enabling the nation to develop international trade through the export of the stone to the various countries of the world. The revenue system of India cannot be discussed properly without discussing the Indian stone industry.

#### **Future of Stone Industry In India**

On the basis of the emerging trends in the Indian stone industry and its contribution in linking the nation with globalization, it can apparently be said that the future of the stone industry is bright. With the growing interest of the industrialists, the Indian stone industry is going to flourish in all the parts of the

country, i.e. in those parts of the nation where there are the stone mines and quarries, and in those parts where the stone markets are being generated in order to supply various types of stone required for the various purposes. Maybe the progress in the field is slow, but it is hoped that it is sure that in future it is going to flourish with flying colours covering all the villages, towns, cities, metropolitan cities and of course, all the countries of the world.

#### **Conclusion**

India is pioneer in the exploration, mining of commercial rock deposits and in establishing a firm base for stone industry. It possesses a wide spectrum of dimensional stones that include granite, marble, sandstone, limestone, slate, and quartzite, in various parts of the country. Stones are still the mainstays of civil construction in India, with stones being used extensively in public buildings, hotels, and temples. It is increasingly being used in homes, with the use of stones now penetrating amongst the growing middle class of India. The Indian stone industry has evolved into the production and manufacturing of blocks, flooring slabs, structural slabs, monuments, tomb stones, sculptures, cobbles, pebbles and landscape garden stones. India's history has been influenced considerably by the disposition, development and use of stones and other construction materials. Innumerable temples, forts and palaces of Ancient Indian Civilisation have been carved out of locally available stones. The Taj Mahal at Agra was constructed from Indian marble. Some of the rock-cut structures include Khajuraho Temple, Elephanta Caves, and Konark Temple. This tradition of Stone Architecture has continued to the present era, with most of the important modern buildings in India like the Presidential House, Parliament House, and

Supreme Court made from high quality sandstone of Rajasthan. The Bahá'í House of Worship of New Delhi stands testimony to the relevance of marble in modern Indian architecture. Commercially viable granite and other rock deposits are reported from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, and others.

Economically speaking, the stone industry in India is so profitable. It is an important source of national income. It is playing a pivot role in enhancing the industrial sector of India through its hundreds and thousands of manufacturing units installed all over the country. However, it still needs to be taken at the priority as a means to lead India to the status of being a developed nation.

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