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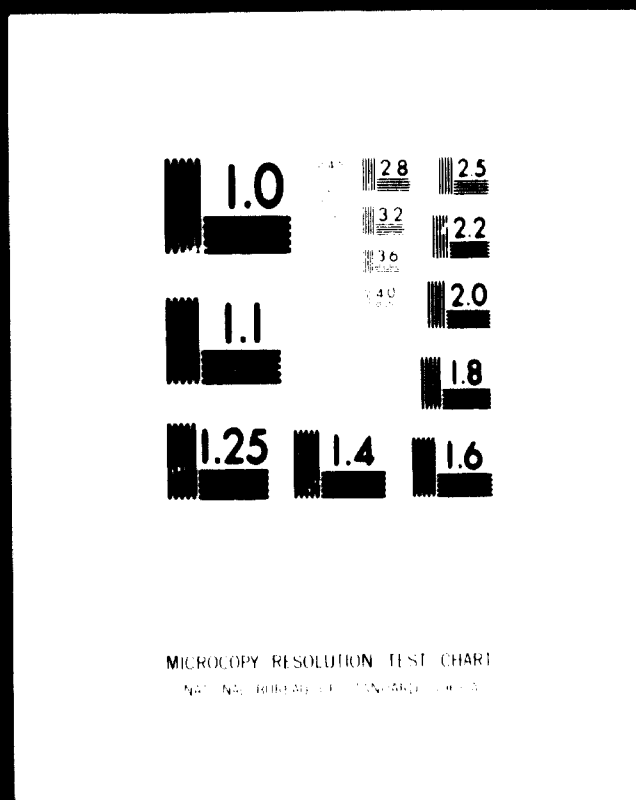
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MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART
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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes the need for transparency and accountability in financial reporting.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and techniques used to collect and analyze data. It includes a detailed description of the experimental procedures and the statistical tools employed.

3. The third part of the document presents the results of the study, showing the trends and patterns observed in the data. It includes several tables and graphs to illustrate the findings.

4. The final part of the document discusses the implications of the results and provides recommendations for future research. It also includes a conclusion summarizing the key points of the study.



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PRESENT STATE AND FUTURE PROSPECTS OF FURNITURE ✓
AND JOINERY INDUSTRIES OF BANGLADESH

by

Mohd. Marul Amin *

* Project Manager BFIDC, W.S. & C.M.P., Mirpur, Dacca, Bangladesh

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Introduction

Bangladesh has natural forests occupying an area of about $8\frac{1}{2}$ thousand square miles which is about 16% of the country's total area. Though the economy of the country is based mainly on agriculture, considerable importance is now being given on her industrial sector, including furniture and joinery industries. The country received its political, as well as economic freedom, at the last part of 1971 and the present industrial atmosphere is much better than that in any earlier period. There is political stability and a changed outlook of the people and the Government, with keen urge for industrial progress and economic development. The entire forests of Bangladesh are under active planning and the creation of more forests is being done by plantation of good quality timbers like teak and mahogani. The timber from the natural forests is being extracted and replaced by planned forests of quality timbers through the scientific and systematic way.

Size of the Industries

Most of the furniture and joinery industries of Bangladesh are still small in size. Modern sophisticated machineries are hardly used and modern processes of specialisation are rarely found. Almost all works in the process are performed by handtools or outdated, less productive machines. Except for one particle board industry which is operated by Adhomjee, no interest from the private sector has been shown for the setting up of furniture and joinery industries on a large scale, in spite of available profitable markets, perhaps due to the relatively higher profitability in investment in other lines of trade and other transactions. In 1959, an effort was made in the public sector which resulted in the setting up of a corporation namely, Forest Industries Development Corporation (F.I.D.C.) with a view to utilizing the forest resources in the best possible way. The Corporation planned out the establishment of some large scale furniture and joinery industries, but due to political instability and the liberation war, the setup of those planned projects could not be completed until the middle of 1975. At present the Corporation has quite a good number of large scale furniture and joinery industries such as

The FIDCO FURNITURE COMPLEX, SYLHET PULP AND PAPER MILL, CABINET MANUFACTURING PROJECTS OF DACCA, CHITTAGONG, KHULNA and RANGPUR, Board Mills, Particle Board and Veneer Plants, where modern machines are used in the various processes of production. In the existing industrial atmosphere, interest in the private sector has also been growing towards the setting up of furniture and joinery industries on a large scale basis. The Government is also encouraging the setting up of such industries in the private sector by allowing long-term soft loans and importing the machineries and other inputs not available in the home country.

Design and Designers

There is no professional designer and most furniture designs are old and traditional, designed by the traditional carpenters. Since the joinery industries are modern establishments in our country, there is no traditional design or designers. One Swedish technical institute was established in 1959 and by now large numbers of students have been given the technical training in Scandinavian designs of furniture and joinery products. Those trained technicians have been engaged in the modern furniture and joinery industries as paid designers. The traditional designs are gradually losing popularity for the fact that they are more costly, time-consuming and mass-production is not possible. The Scandinavian designs are gaining popularity very speedily due to their different methods of production and lower cost.

Local Timbers as Raw Materials

Previously, teak was imported and used as the most suitable timber for furniture. At present no timber is being imported. Bangladesh has got many local species of timbers in her natural forests Sundarban, Sylhet forests and Chittagong hill tract forest, the most popular species being Teak Chambal, (*Micholia SPP*) Gamari, (*Gmelina orborea*, Jarul, (*Lagerstromia flosregina*), Chikrashi, (*Chuckrasia labularies*), Surubid, (*Cedrela toone*), Garjon (*Dipterocarpus SPP*), Tally (*Dyckopsis Polyantha*) Jam (*Engenia SPP*) Kamdeb (*Calophyllum SPP*) etc. Those are all hard-woods. There is one forest research laboratory in Bangladesh. The grains of the local species of timbers have been tested in it and it was found that these timbers are quite suitable for quality furniture if they are properly seasoned. Hence; production of furniture from local species of timbers have now been started with good results.

Other Raw Materials

Raw materials, other than timbers, like steel, plastic etc; are hardly used in Bangladesh at present. There is no developed and competitive steel or plastic industry to manufacture either the complete furniture or any components of it. Glue is used in both furniture and joinery industries but not in the excellent developed processes as it is done in the Scandinavian countries. Glue is still an imported material for us, however, glue industries are being set up at present.

Management and Marketing

Management of furniture and joinery industries are, however, much better and encouraging but not sufficiently satisfactory as yet. Though the country is over-populated, persons with skilled managerial ability are still scarce in relation to the practical need of the profession. It is a matter of great hope that some business management training centres have been set up in the country quite recently at the Government's initiative for the improvement of managerial skillness of the business administration. Besides, higher practical training in the business management in the developed countries may be of great help for the furniture and joinery industries of Bangladesh.

The furniture and joinery industries of Bangladesh have a wide and unlimited home market but no foreign market at all. There is no well organised marketing channel. The quality of products is gradually being improved upon but is not yet sufficiently satisfactory to compete with the products of the developed countries, like Sweden, Finland or Denmark. There is tremendous demand of the products of the furniture and joinery industries at home, and this market is sufficiently large enough for the expansion and development of the furniture and joinery industries of Bangladesh.

Finishing

Finishing is one of the most important stages of production and probably the strongest impetus for good marketing. Finishing materials are mostly imported and scarce in Bangladesh. The sophisticated finishing machineries are not available and used in Bangladesh at present, and most finishing works are done by hand and handtools. As such, the finishing of the products are not highly satisfactory.

Problems

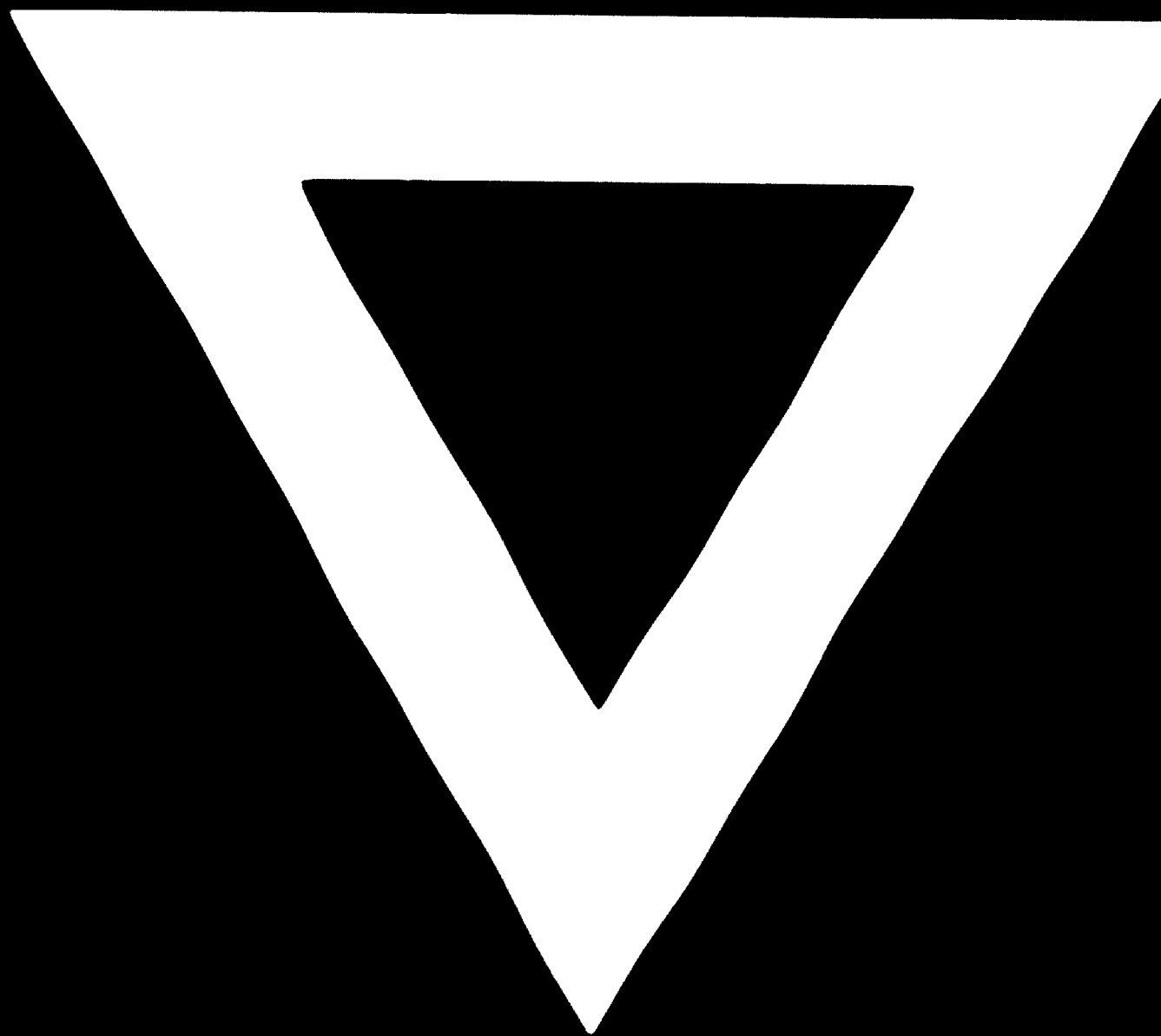
The main problems attached to the furniture and joinery industries of Bangladesh at present are the non-availability of sophisticated machines, chemicals, spare-parts and skilled technical and management personal. The existence of dishonest labour leaders and ill-motivated and perverted labour unions are also some of the serious bottlenecks hampering production and productive atmosphere.

Prospects

Bangladesh is a country of 75 million people. There is a keen demand for modern manufactured furniture and joinery products at home. We have natural forests with plenty of hard woods. Moreover, creation of forests by plantation of quality timbers like teak and mahogani is in progress. People have changed outlooks towards the expansion of industrial development. Political stability and a good industrial atmosphere is also present. The ~~These~~ key industries are being set up. A number of management training centres have been established to increase the skill of management personnel. The Swedish technical institute which had been established in Bangladesh in 1959, has been producing, each year, a good number of technical persons in different lines of the woodworking industries. A large machine tools factory has also been established for making the essential spareparts. Hence, the future prospects for furniture and joinery industries of Bangladesh are undoubtedly bright.



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