



Business history of colonial Benares: Reading business, entrepreneurship, community and economy with intervention of British Government (1858-1947 AD)

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to explore the various aspect of Business History in Colonial Benares during nineteenth and twentieth century. Business History cannot be studied in isolation with statistical figures and entities rather it encapsulates several other aspects to be studied. Society, Government, Local Politics, Modern institutions of Banking, Cooperative Agriculture and Colonial Empire would form the major discussion while studying the business history of Benares. It is to be noted the geography, topography, historical legacy and psychological thoughts of local population has relevance in this study and no doubt these aspects had indirect impact in business of the city.

The evident question arises here is why local indigenous people did not excel in large scale business and entrepreneurship despite experiencing the modern colonial tools and institutions. Several Marwari and other mercantile communities who have migrated from Mughal dominions (Delhi and Rajasthan) utilized this opportunity and established themselves as industrialist however the local population failed in using this time. Colonial government though understood in negative connotations however without the support and protection from state the Business of City would not have excelled at such a large scale. Hence, the question needs to be asked here why the state supported these merchants despite having their own commercial background and venture (East India Company).

There was admixture of indigenous economy and commerce dealing in local products and modernized economy, hence how these two economies got mixed and gave new avenues to the city. Did there exist conflict in beginning and how they both aided in strengthening each other is question of relevance which is important to address in this study. Another most sought question is whether society, community and caste have any role in Business and entrepreneurship and whether this informal institution has strengthened the zeal to create strong business or discouraged the individuals to follow other practice. This is important because Benares has population of agriculturist, weavers, moneylenders, hawkers, saints, and traders and these all comes from different society and community.

Business History of Colonial Benares encapsulates various strands which needs to be included while investigating this aspect. The city has its own historiography which is relevant for analyzing the contemporary characteristic of the city. No doubt, I cannot address all arguments and questions in this study however the different strands and questions related to Business History would be explained so that further scope of research becomes evident.

Keywords: Kashi, business, entrepreneurship, Benares, mercantile, marwaris, banking, society, mahajans

Introduction

“Benares” quoted as city of temples was considered as important center of economy and administration since ancient period and it continued to contemporary times. Its geographical location at middle of Calcutta and Delhi and bank of River Ganges gave advantage to trade, commerce, and political rivalry. Its strategic location joining eastern part with northern region provided edge to respective ruler having control over the city, in terms of political invasion, security and economic buoyancy^[1]. Since, my paper is addressing the Business History of Benares during colonial times the discussion would be restricted to its core ideas rather than encouraging other historical themes and characteristic of city. The Business History of Colonial India has been less investigated field since the beginning of the historiography and there is notion of considering trade and business as similar context. In Pre-Colonial India the modern nomenclature “Business” to address the commercial activities was not developed and the area was restricted to inter-regional spaces, no matter the regional geography encapsulated entire South-East Asia regions. Several mentions have been made of overland routes “Silk Route” ‘Uttarapatha’ and ‘Dakshinpatha’ in ancient sources, the pathways were of prevalent practice in Medieval phase^[2].

In the beginning of eighteenth-century East India Company represented the British supremacy in India, involved in several conflicts with other European powers and regional states of Mysore, Marathas, Mughals, and local magnates. At the end of eighteenth century, East India Company emerged as individual European power subjugated their counterpart and other local rulers.

The Charter Act of 1813 had given autonomy to the other private Entities in Britain to conduct trade on Indian Soil hence the competition in terms of trade began to emerge. In further move, the Act of 1833 abolished the remaining privileges of East India Company. No doubt, playing field was prepared for the trading entities to express their activities in India and the sphere of commercial activities was widened with advent of Europeans. Several parties though Romans had commercial relation with India however the nineteenth century witnessed the transaction of greater products, ideas, and inland, overland with anew maritime trade with Europe opened new pathway for trade relations with India.

Teerthankar Roy in his work “A Business History of Colonial India” has discussed the journey of trade in India beginning from ancient phase to modern phase and established the cycle of development from barter to coins

and later to standard currency as mode of transaction. There is no doubt advent of European commercial entities revamped the existed structure of commerce and dominance of Agriculture went into background and manufacturing sector of jute textiles, steels, iron, and cash crops opium, tea and cotton came to dominate^[3].

In this context, the reshuffle of ruling groups in India with British taking as leading agent changed the entire socio-economic structure of indigenous society, the relation of ruling elites and artisans, craftsmen, traders, and others commercial agents suffered setback and the initial phase of shuffle experienced heavy disturbance. However, the time passed, and a new socio-economic environment established in colonial India the old businesses reformed themselves to changed situation, and the debate continues whether industrialization has negative or positive impact on indigenous economy^[4].

With new power structure of British in India, several strands of migration of people across the geographical space of India underwent at different instances and Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras emerged as new center of commerce with several merchants making themselves settled in various corners of this cities.

Under this context, "Kashi" finds mention in ancient literature as big center of trade, culture, and major epicenter of politics. It has been mentioned in saga of conflicts of interest amongst Magadha Empire, Guptas, and Mughal to British phase as "Benares." Various commercial activities find place in sources covering silk, cotton, and religious products available locally, nonetheless its location is key to understanding the commercial history since the overland and inland river routes has relation to Calcutta and Kabul via "Delhi"^[5].

Though Calcutta was famous for its trade, capital, and marine activities, however Benares served as middle point for business across the India and the routes coming from Hyderabad and Mysore has relation to Benares and no doubt this city was of prime importance to understand dynamics of business in colonial India and its relation to other centers. The city has its own historicity from time immemorial encapsulation temple economy, center of medieval economy of weavers and leather tanning and no doubt it served as Zamindari estate for British government giving bullion of revenue.

Various strands of society, economy and politics needs to be studied to understand its contribution to British economy and how various commercial activities became vibrant in colonial India the role of merchant's class in strengthening of business and what was the social fabric of business communities and its struggle and success in a new age of banking, globalization, and industrial revolution.

There has been mention of migration of Marwaris community to Calcutta and no doubt there is evidence of Marwaris communities dealing in trade and commerce in Benares, other communities of Punjabis, Sindhis and other communities from Arab lands has settlements in city and most of the transaction is being carried by these groups. Several things like how business class emerged in city, local population, state intervention and role of local elites in making the commerce to expand its hands in colonial Benares.

It is understood from primary data "Aggarwal Magazine" published during nineteenth century and twentieth century that there has been migration of Marwari Communities and

Punjabi communitylike Khattris, Khandelwal and others in the city. There was existing local population involved in mercantile activities which was foundation of local economy with temple, textiles, and local products being the major areas of activity.

Therefore, positive admixture of local economy dealing in textile, dairy, meat, temple, silk, betel leaves and horticulture with modern economy of colonial times has given cosmopolitan society and economy. Modern Economy herein mainly emphasizes banking, joint stocks, cooperative, entrepreneurship, shareholders and no doubt this resource provided avenues for industrialization and modernization of city economy^[6].

Herein Business and Entrepreneurship would not be equated with trade and commerce since there exist difference in these entities as entrepreneurship involves raising capital, shareholding, resources and creating entity "Business". There has been scope of study for this development in Benares wherein the Marwaris and other mercantile communities raised their business and established themselves as robust player of Business and Entrepreneurship. In addition, there exist intermingling of indigenous and nonindigenous community provides scope of discussion how this admixture aided in creating business of the city and robust economy.

Society as institution has provided support and resources to the mercantile communities and there is discussion validating its undeniable role in raising the business of any individual and its reference is cited in Marwari literature (Marwari Sabha and Jatiya Samachar: Aggarwal). Society has proved its mettle in consolidating its members from Marwaris to Parsis and no doubt the informal force nurtured them in Business skills and ethics. It would be interesting to analyze its role in entrepreneurship and business creation of city and how its unseen force provided robust mechanism to this creation^[7].

Business History of Benares cannot be dealt in isolation with business theories and characteristic, instead it would encapsulate other aspects of society, state, and geography. State is indispensable part of this study and its role cannot be neglected at any cost. Colonial government has considered Benares as strategic center of Oudh Province and they established Commissionerate system in city having control over the adjoining areas of the city. There has been ample development of infrastructure, mechanism, security, services and deployment of army in Cantonment areas provided suitable atmosphere for business and entrepreneurship "Ease of Doing Business" in the city.

Various efforts have been undertaken by colonial government to create the stable ecosystem of Benares with institutional force of laws and legislation and deployment of security forces. Several strands of Zamindars and their lathiyals used to dominate the eastern part of Oudh Province having control over revenues, administration and politics of region from the Mughal age and they have interference in administration and legislation^[8].

However, the colonial regime curtailed the endless limit of these local magnates with several legislations and institutional structure such as Police, Courts and Permanent Settlement in Revenue collection, the dependence of state on Zamindars for security and administration of Qasbas was undermined with its own methods.

British Government has categorically formulated the planning and methods to be followed in dairy, meat and

paper industry (Benares Magistrate Gazetteer) wherein the Colonial Head of the city mentioned the quantified measurement of this industries structure and various aspects should be followed for its activity. There has been emphasis on Sanitation and Hygiene aspects under this industries and government has categorical instructions to be followed for maintaining cleanliness^[9].

The Government has interference in functioning of business of city and there is no doubt the business of dairy, meat, leather and paper industries grew at large scale due to policies and protection from government. Therefore, there is scope of discussion and study for the role of state in entrepreneurship and business of this city and did the state benefitted in expanding the business or there would have been the reverse scenario without interference of respective government.

Introduction of Banking as regularized institution brought monetary buoyancy to aspiring entrepreneurs though Hundi as informal financial institutions was working prior to this development. Several Marwaris individuals practiced moneylending activity in beginning and later they become stronghold with growth of financial buoyancy and institutionalization of this sector (Bayly).

Permanent Settlement of Revenue in eighteenth century monetized the revenue collection with high demand for cash to settle transactions. This change of demand created scope for the banking institution and Mahajan (Marwari Families) established themselves cash market. Several Zamindars has to maintain cordial relationship with group of Mahajan for regular supply of cash to settle the revenue to colonial master otherwise their estate would be seized (Sunset Law: Pg. 165; Bandyopadhyay)^[10].

Rise of Mahajan's in Benares with demand of monetized economy brought economic buoyancy in the city and profits accrued with exorbitant interest brought monetized capital to these individuals. It is evident that excess capital would be invested in other ventures and the Marwaris Mahajans began purchasing auctioned agriculture lands whose owner had failed to comply with Permanent Settlement. Later, this Mahajans began trading in sugar, jute, rice, wheat and established their factories in the wave of industrialization (20th Century).

It is to be noted Banking provided larger opportunity to mercantile groups in Benares to grow their resources and strength in Business and they utilized the modern policies to develop their business. The question arises here how only certain community excelled in banking sector and what role did government played in their success and excellence. In addition, why the local communities of Benares did not grow at such scale in this segment as compared to Marwari community.

In nineteenth century, Cooperative-Agriculture was prevalent business practice of mercantile community and here I am mentioning mercantile community because the research is yet to be done about which community was involved in this practice. This commercial practice was result of moneylending and Mahajans used to purchase the auctioned land from debt-ridden farmer (ownership of zamindari land is still debate). Mahajans generally resided in urban space and gave the agriculture land to its earlier owner to cultivate with sharing of profit proportionally since they did not involve themselves in cultivation of crops^[11].

In this practice, investment was key point with distributing the accumulated capital in other ventures of agricultures

which would provide profit at the end of harvesting season. This practice has though benefitted the city merchants however they experienced negative repercussions in revolt of 1857 and other local peasant rebellions because the peasants and zamindars considered this practice as interference in their occupation. This is the reason why peasants and zamindars attacked the moneylenders and merchants in city burning their homes and offices so that the data and figures of money transaction is destroyed.

Teerthankar Roy in his work "The Business History of Colonial India" discussed the economic history of colonial India its relations with pre-colonial socio-economic aspects of Indian society, how the anew development of capitalism, industrialization, and open market had to dealt with the agriculture-based economy of indigenouse space. The key aim of this book is to devote its major portion of discussion on rise of capitalism, business in colonial context and rise of commercial institutions instead of analyzing any individual entrepreneur achievement or industries though these aspects would be not left behind and would be studied in various contexts unlike isolated study.

Roy has however emphasized on business aspects of colonial India instead of devoting his resources in economic aspects, categorically there has been mention of Capitalism and role of capitalist would be priority in his work no doubt he held analytical framework involving evolution of business in modern context. There is lot of time provided in dealing emergence of capitalist economy in India, revamping of old business structures, and increasing role of Individuals as Capitalist in modern economy.

In detailed analysis there has been mention of Medieval economy prevailing wherein the patronage of ruling class was considered bedrock of indigenouse economy, for the time artisans, sculptures, carpenters, peasants, local elites, and caravans' groups has intrinsic relationship with state economy designed to cater every groupinvolved in commerce and business. Land Revenue dominated the share of the economy with agriculture being the key practice and trade being placed in the secondary stage.

Though mentioned in texts trade carried from West Asian regions following the route beginning from Kabul reaching interior Lahore, Peshawar, Delhi, Kanpur, Calcutta, Hyderabad, Mysore, Ujjain, Kanpur, and other commercial centers however Lahore, Delhi, and regional capitals dominated the commercial venue. With the advent of anew ruling class there was shift of fulcrum from these old cities based out in interior to the port cities, in lieu Calcutta, Bombay and Madras emerged as big centers of trade and commercial activity.

Several strings of mercantile class migrated from Rajasthan, Punjab and North-West Regions adjoining the old capital "Delhi" and "Lahore" to the emerging centers of commerce, since the change of power structure revamped the entire socio-economic fabric various new opportunities emerging to be utilized to survive and exist in storm of rapid industrialization, capitalism, and rising economy of colonial masters. The British had opened the commercial field to its every colony covering Asia, Africa, and European regions and commercial transaction began to involve every colony and other neighboring states "China" infamous for Opium War and of course tea trade.

This book however has provided insights about rising capitalism in India and role of several individuals in building their trading empire to be named Birla's, Tatas,

Bajaj, and others magnate groups involved in commercial activities. In so far there has been ample discussion on economy, trade, policies, role of industrialization and rising colonial regime in another instance this book focused its theme on rise of capitalism and why the Indian society left behind several developed nation despite having presence of European rule for centuries.

Ideas and analysis of this text creates scope for investigation in commercial aspects of "Benares" and how the old city submerged entirely in medieval economy and state policies dealt with anew invention in business and trade. The evidence of several communities migrating from Northwestern Regions and North India finding their settlement and commercial avenues in East Regions, and the city "Benares" is geographically located the junction of East and North, the areas adjacent to Benares "Mirzapur was meeting point for Caravans coming from Deccan no matter the city has its relevance in colonial business history.

Thinking about the ancient legacy of city mentioned in book and its relevance in modern business history makes the scope higher to be measured in prevailing situations of trading, banking, and industrialization.

"The Oxford History of Indian Business" authored by Dwijendra Tripathi made positive contribution in providing insights about evolution of Indian Business into the age of Industrialization making the old manufacturing structure into mechanized mode. Earlier Indian society was not involved in manufacturing sector at its full though certain areas known for cotton, silk and other items traded however it was carried by artisans and local manufacturers. The Mughal age had its presence in Northern India though it had its rule over major regions of India, the internal conflicts and regional disturbances did not lead development of smooth trade routes and it involved lot of tariff duties in internal routes the Mughal had not developed its interest in marine trade. Indian traders did not invest in manufacturing sector depend on the local artisans and producers and at major instances the long trade involved the assistance of Banjara community commuting the trade commodities from Hyderabad to Northern India at Mirzapur near Varanasi. The Caravans groups had formed their own community involved in transporting business stocks mention has been made of Banjara who formed key element having detailed knowledge of routes, climate and security and State also recognized their contribution providing them several prerogatives.

Dwijendra Tripathi has described the journey of Indian commercial groups from Mercantile to Industrial Capitalism the development of banking, joint stock, managerial agency, corporate governance, and industrialization has contributed to building the foundation of Indian Capitalism and business empires. The East India Company has regularized the business transaction with lot of legal business clauses, development of infrastructure including physical as well as institutional finance, banking and corporate governance, railways, and shipping. Development of East India Company Later Government of Viceroy has established stable rule the merchants, capitalist began to establish themselves in cities and port businesses with sense of security and profitability.

British rule in India has been positive outcome to Indigenous business with tons of development, rule of law, professionalism in transaction, transport, railways, safety, modern business institutions, argued Tripathy and he

categorically considered British rule as something boon to Indian Economy which is likely to be a big question needs to be addressed. Indian Economy and adjacent region China, Africa and Latin America has been mentioned to create the comparative analysis of India the British had their presence in majority of this region, the scale of capitalism economy is to be studied considering these regions.

Various individual entrepreneurs Ghanshyam Das Birla, Jamshedji Tata, Jamanalal Bajaj, and others has references in his work the role played in East India Business transactions, how they began as brokerage agent a detailed job doing managerial agent and further in interwar of First world War, these entrepreneurs benefited in building their own factories.

Marwaris in major references migrated to East "Calcutta" involved in various services from agent to small scale industries of sugar, tin, jute, oil, and others however the demand for Jute in wartime and decrease presence of English merchants gave them empty field to play their own game and it was these reasons various business magnates emerged in Calcutta, Madras and Bombay.

Ethnic Business Communities has been studied to observe its impact in strengthening business entrepreneurship and whether the community ties had any role in commercial growth. There have been several arguments about certain communities flourishing in commerce and trade Marwaris, Sindhis, Khojas, Khandelwal, Khatri, Chettiars, and Parsis however these notions had been not formed theory argued and is considered one aspect which cannot be applied on every event. Parsis grew in Bombay at higher margin however they had travelled long roads of struggle, knowledge, dislocation, and other nuances to reach the peak of their business.

The city of Benares constitutes these arguments of traditional mode of manufacture to modern tools, the communities involved in trade are still settled and its location is eastward and no doubt it had every aspect which is required to be studied considering these theories. One lacuna the book failed to address the role of Multinational companies Unilever, Philips and Parry in the business transactions and what role these companies had in the development of indigenous industries based in big cities. The role of small commercial cities like Benares, Hyderabad, Indore, Ujjain, Kanpur, and Patna needs to be discussed as they formed the key chain of inland trade making the commodities to reach the respective ports from hinterland.

Caste and Capitalism in Colonial India: The Nattukottai Chettiars work of 'David West Rudner' argues that Caste has been foundation in building the Capitalism in Indigenous society mentioned of single south Indian business caste Nattukottai Chettiars or Nakarattars involved caste as mechanism to strengthen their trading scale. He held his argument firm about caste existing in pre-colonial or pre-modern era has evolved into an invention of modern industrialization and capitalism. Caste ties aided in strengthening the Nakarattars community into strong merchant groups involved in banking, finance, and agent other establishment as banking institutions in Malaya, Burma and Ceylon and he categorically mentioned Caste like Nakarattars to be "complex, multilayered, multifunctional corporate kin groups" and it will have impact in succeeding time.

David Rudner meticulously studied the Nakarattars deploying measures and actions to strengthen the commercial level of their community. The committee formed of Nakarattars individuals decides the commodity interest rates, loans and other incentives to their fellow members involved in commerce and in several instances the big magnates of community borrow loans from British Imperial Banks at optimum interest rates and later transfer to their fellow traders at lower interest rates. With their strong commercial achievements and finance they dominated the politics of Madras Presidency no denial they emerged as first industrialists in South India.

Rudner work has been inspired by Max Weber's theories of Religion and Capitalism which cannot be discarded at immediate however need to be studied in reference to other aspects of business history. Though Rudner has established symbiotic relationships between Capitalism and Caste however he mentioned the analysis of one elite Nakarattars "Bankers" and failed to describe the history of Nakarattars caste as holistic group the evolution of their group and their growth in light of these circumstances unlike devoting entire focus on one bankers' group. It is unlikely that every member of the community followed the banking service the scope would have to encapsulate every aspect of the Nakarattars group.

Although this discussion has some lacuna in dealing its every facet, the arguments would favor to investigate this symbiotic relationship in community groups of Benares since its socio-economic context has positive influence of Caste and no denial the caste has major role in politics of Northern India which exist in contemporary period of 21st century after independence. In Benares there has been reference of certain occupation has identification to specific caste however there is difference between community and caste which I will try to bifurcate to investigate this relation.

There have been various scholars who have underscores the significance and community ties in business activity several anthropological surveys and analysis of Max Weber has suggested the presence of caste, community, ethnicity, and religion in buildings any economic structure. Benares holy pilgrimage of Hinduism and politically sound has viable semblance of these arguments since the city has experienced social, economic, and political upheavals since the ancient age of Mahajanpadas to contemporary times.

Teerthankar Roy in another work "Company of Kinsmen: Enterprise and Community in South Asian History 1700-1947" has underscored the role of community ties in business arena and held his arguments growing role of this ethnic ties in this business. There has been categorical discarding of equation of Community with Caste since both developments have different aspects and cannot be understood be same and the author has based his arguments under purview of Community.

Guild's formation was key organizational involved in trade and commerce since the ancient age continued to Medieval in another form however, they functioned on community ties, in modern period with new development guilds has reformed to anew structure in consonance with industrialization, banking, insurance and corporate governance.

Here Roy has strived to establish the community as strong ties in guilds doing business and commerce and they maintained their endogamous groups with marriages, gifts, and regulation over their members. Several communities

involved in trade do not have specific caste and they were attached to same heredity Jews, Syrian, Christians, Parsees, Muslims, and Armenians formed the endogamous groups. He mentioned "Society in India is formed like beehive under which each cell was an endogamous unit with their own independence enjoying autonomous management of personal concerns such as marriages, inheritance and faith" and this structure encapsulated every segment of society to work in coherence. The community guilds were regulated under the informal institution consisted of own members rules and laws made the group to exist stable and no doubt the groups organized every activity Marriage, trade, loans, transport, and these services made the long trade more feasible.

Danish Missionaries admitted this observation the artisans and mercantile skill of Malabar groups has something exotic, and these artistic skills are no way inferior to any nation. It is to be noted these ties had some advantage in pre-modern period of trade and commerce however the age of British rule has another dynamic and these ties cannot hold successful in long run since there has been age of globalization and open market which suggest some reforms. He mentioned these groups having resemblance to caste like formation would obstruct the growth in free market and hinder their growth. The role of these groups cannot be ignored unless it is studied in various references. These arguments however cannot be considered proven theory since several communities excelled in their business Birlas, Bajaj and Tata and would strive to investigate in the context of Benares.

Conclusion

Business history has been understood in context of Economic theories and statistics yet no denial about its relationship with business, several aspects of Business cannot be dealt without tools and data of economics. Business constitutes entrepreneurial set-up, raising capital and loans and channelizing in various investments, risk analysis, understanding of market demand and supply equation, fund management and knowledge about trading commodities manufacture, sale, transport and profit the discipline involves practical knowledge about the prevailing market situation.

There is no surprise that business history has its own characteristics required for the economy to exist and it has different aspects which need to be addressed in separate spaces. Entrepreneurial aspects are prime subjects to be underscored which involves major secondary factors attached to business discipline, in fact it is individual entrepreneurs who took the initiative to build any business and later the groups or community followed such works. Several scholarly works focused its attention on economic policies, statistics, and impact of East India Company rule, deindustrialization, traditional and capitalist economy, however the discipline of business has been understood in same aspects, but it is separate discipline to be studied in its contexts like "Two sides of same coin".

In the work going to be investigated Business aspects would be dealt with references to city "Benares" since it was center of trade and commerce from the age of Mahajanpadas however I would deal with colonial period itself. The city was famous for "Temple Economy" making it vibrant space for pilgrimage masses and fusion of religion, trade, river, and its strategic location at junction of East and North India

provides long historicity of commerce and socio-politics aspects.

It has been discussed in earlier paragraphs about trades, business, and commerce was local in nature and less attention was devoted to bulk manufacturing products since transport and socio-political situations were not viable however with advent of East India Company several modern developments of banking, infrastructure, corporate governance, joint stock companies, shareholders and outsourcing employees unlike limited to family's members. Benares has experienced several stages of development from ancient to medieval and finally leaps into modern phase of inventions and it becomes prudent to investigate the emerging businesses in modern context and how the peoples engaged in traditional commerce and socio-political set up turned the wheel to sustain themselves.

Migration of several communities eastward towards Calcutta after establishing port cities by East India Company though Bombay and Madras was similarly established to cater maritime trade and commerce, and in several references of regional archives there have been settlement of these commercial communities in Benares the commerce and business jumped higher and state was involved seeing the scope of city with separate Commissionerate government for Benares and its adjoining areas of Mirzapur, Jaunpur, Ghazipur and Ballia.

Every adjoining area has relevance for its own raw material Mirzapur for Red Sandstones used in Buddhist Architecture, Ghazipur for opium and weeds, Ballia for transport products, Bhadohi for Carpet transporting to Kashmir and Middle East and these spaces were support for the Benares manufacturing industries of silk, cotton, leather, betel leaves, and sweets.

It is established fact that city has its own economy prevailing prior to the advent of EIC intervention and communities migrated from Rajasthan and Punjab named Marwaris, Khatris, and Muslim Migrants from Northwestern region. Hence it becomes prudent to study local economy as they were source of raw material for big production entities, what was the role did local peoples played in their developing modern industries and what was their contribution in setting the modern economy of Benares from setting up industries, finance, shipping, and marketing of local products.

Conclusion

“Benares” would become fulcrum of research conducted at its business aspects covering social fabric, local economy, and space with development of Banaras Hindu University in 1916 as residential campus with hospital which would have invited many opportunities for the education and health industry to flourish. Several references have been made of contribution by various Rajas named Darbhanga king, Raja of Benares, Holkar of Indore, Gaikwad of Baroda it become necessary to analyze the role of political intervention in the business of Kashi “Benares” and what role did temples “Kashi Vishwanath Dham” has contributed to business.

There have been innumerable aspects to be addressed however I would try to narrow down every aspect in references to Business of City and its appendage tools and institutions. Business Communities and their struggle in developing structure and success till independence would be foundation of my study and I would try to consider every area considering my theme.

Research Methodology

The paper involves qualitative analysis of secondary literature of “Teerthankar Roy” to have broad understanding of Economy of country and how business used to structure in Indian Subcontinent. Therefore there has been followed the comparative study of archival reports of Benares Commissionerate and regional literature of Awadh Province will be studied in relation to archival report of British rule in India.

Data Collection

Primary Data

- British Government Document of Benares Commissionerate in nineteenth and twentieth century (Regional Archive of Varanasi).
- Aggarwal, a yearly magazine of Marwari Sangh published from Calcutta and Benares during nineteenth and twentieth century (Nagari Pracharini Sabha).

Secondary Data

- Sunbeam Group Magazine (Madhok Family migrated from Shimla and built Education business in city)
- School Diary explaining the history of Seth MR Jaipuriya School Varanasi founder and his forefather.
- Interview of Dr. SaumyaBajla, a dermatologist whose family migrated from Calcutta and settled in Benares (Marwari Family in Benares)
- Hindi Newspaper articles.
- Works of great historians of the proposed area and period of research.
- Other sources from journals, articles, research papers and magazines

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