

# From The History of The Bukhara Knitting Factory

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**Abstract:** In this article, we will touch on the history of the Bukhara knitting factory, which made a significant contribution to the country's economy. 70 percent of the economy of our republic is developed directly or indirectly through the cotton industry, textile, knitwear, and light industry sectors, and this, of course, is done in connection with light industry sectors in the regions. The history of the Bukhara knitting factory, which played an important role in the development of the economy and the creation of jobs, information about the work activities of workers and monthly salaries is presented. The knitting factory was mainly established in the city of Bukhara, and information related to the supply of cotton and silk fabrics and ready-made clothes to the population is presented based on historical analysis.

**Keywords:** Light Industry, Knitwear, Ready-Made Clothing, Fabric, Textiles, Cotton Yarn, Wool, Silk And Chemical Fiber Mixtures, History, Jobs, Socialist Competition, Factory, Artel

## Introduction

The knitting industry is one of the important components of Uzbekistan's light industry and was formed as a separate industry in the 30s and 40s of the 20th century. The Kokand Hosiery Factory, launched in 1939 in Uzbekistan, was the first factory for knitting fabrics, and in 1943 it was transformed into a combine and was considered one of the largest industrial enterprises of that time in the Central Asian region. During World War II and in subsequent years, the knitting industry in Uzbekistan developed rapidly. In 1941-1945, knitwear factories were launched in Tashkent and Andijan, and in the 1950s-1960s in Samarkand, Bukhara, and again in Andijan and Tashkent.

Knitting (French, *tircoter* to knit) - if we give a definition, it is a fabric or garment obtained by forming loops from one or more threads and connecting them together, that is, weaving them. Knitted garments are woven from threads consisting of a mixture of cotton yarn, wool, silk and chemical fibers. Mainly, suits, sweaters, blouses, coats, gloves, shirts, underwear, socks and other fabrics were made in knitting factories. The knitting industry developed in the late 18th and early 19th centuries in Great Britain, France and in Russia at the end of the 19th century, while knitting factories appeared in Uzbekistan in the 30s-40s of the 20th century.

## Methodology

The article was written using the interview method, which was based on information obtained from interviews with managers and workers working in the Bukhara textile industry. The article was based on press materials, archival materials, and archival data from factories where production processes are carried out in the city of Bukhara and its districts, using scientific and comparative analysis methods.

The article uses scientific research methods such as historical-chronological, succession and consistency, comparative-historical analysis. The study used scientific research methods such as historicity and objectivity.

To analyze the collected data, several scientific research methods were employed:

**Historical-chronological method:** Events related to the establishment, growth, and transformation of the factory were systematically reconstructed in chronological order to identify historical patterns and key developmental phases.

**Comparative-historical analysis:** The evolution of the Bukhara Knitting Factory was compared with the development of similar enterprises in Uzbekistan, such as the Kokand and Samarkand factories, allowing for contextual evaluation of regional textile industry trends.

**Succession and consistency principles:** Emphasis was placed on examining the gradual, stage-by-stage development of the factory, maintaining a focus on continuity and change within economic and technological frameworks.

**Scientific objectivity and historicity:** Efforts were made to objectively interpret historical events, avoiding subjective judgments, and ensuring that interpretations were rooted in factual evidence and reliable source materials.

## Result and Discussion

70 percent of the economy of our republic is developing directly or indirectly in connection with the cotton industry, textile, knitwear and light industry. This, of course, is carried out in connection with light industry in the regions. Let us dwell on the history of the Bukhara knitting factory, which made a significant contribution to the country's economy.

The Bukhara Knitting Factory named after Telman is one of the enterprises in the city of Bukhara. The Bukhara Knitting Factory was originally called the Quvvat Artel and was founded on the basis of small crafts, consisting of a total of 80 people. Its first head was the craftsman Sharif Rais, nicknamed Kozby. He worked at the Quvvat Artel until 1929.[2]

Artels are enterprises established by the population for the purpose of conducting joint economic activities, performing labor processes together. Artels may include individual producers of goods, artisans, craftsmen, etc. In the Uzbek SSR, after 1924, farms such as craft artels were established, which were transferred to the socialist economic system based on the generalization of the means of production. Their production plans were included in the state national economic plan. With the adoption of laws on individual labor activity in the late 1980s, such artels lost their significance.

Since 1929, small enterprises of this type have been united in the Kuvvat artel to establish knitwear production. Initially, socks, scarves, and sweaters woven from yarn and fabric were produced here on simple machines.

By 1949, the Kuybyshev and Telman artels were merged and transformed into a large artel. This artel was called Telman. Gross industrial output in the Bukhara region in 1957 increased a thousand times compared to 1913, reaching almost 2 billion soums. The cotton area in 1957 was 550 percent larger than in 1913, and cotton production increased more than 6-fold during this period.[1]

In 1963, the Bukhara Knitting Factory was established on its basis, and Ismoil Gulomovich Fozilov was appointed its head. Under the talented and organizing leader I. Fozilov, the factory staff began to achieve high labor achievements. Director Fozilov took an active part in the preparation of the new factory project. For their achievements in 1963-65, the labor staff was repeatedly awarded the Red Banner of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR, and the Central Committee of the People's Commissariat of Labor of Uzbekistan.

After the CCCP's cooperation with the People's Republic of China, the patriotic initiative of Muscovites and Leningraders to produce high-quality products was enthusiastically supported by the collectives of Bukhara city industrial enterprises.

The noise of the sewing machines of the Bukhara knitting factory was deafening. When Muattar Opa first got a job, she had difficulty operating the equipment, which seemed very complex. In 1971, the enterprise moved to a new building, and the workshops were equipped with new and more complex equipment. Muattar Opa Gadoyeva is considered one of the most famous grandmothers of the factory.

Known among the seamstresses of the second workshop as a master of her craft, this selfless young woman set an example for everyone in her work. Muattar, who mainly specializes in sewing outerwear, consistently completed 160-170 percent of her shift assignments. The production pioneer, who had completed his five-year personal mission, tried to develop high-quality clothing by May 1971. He went beyond his duties and sewed six thousand pieces of children's outerwear, becoming one of the winners at the factory. The company was staffed by seamstresses Olima Narziyeva, Amina Mukhtorova, and Olmas Sultanova, who call Muattar opa Gadoyeva their mentor. Thanks to the hard work of such production leaders, the workshop completed its ten-month project well ahead of schedule. [4]

One of the main requirements is to promote labor efficiency in production, and the factory staff has achieved a number of successes in this regard. Among the seamstresses, Oliya Mirzayeva, Maktob Khamidova, the leading seamstress Jamila Khabibova, and the dyer Khusniya Abbosova worked as an example to their colleagues in saving and rational use of raw materials. During the last nine months of 1971, the enterprise collective sent 1,581 thousand pieces of outerwear and 88.6 thousand pieces of underwear to trade organizations. In 1971-1972, 84 people graduated from advanced training courses organized at the factory to improve the skills of engineering and technical personnel and workers. This had a positive effect on improving the quality of products.[6]

In 1972, a labor strike broke out in the workshops of the Bukhara knitting factory. Girls were especially the organizers of this movement. They took on increased responsibilities in honor of the 50th anniversary of the USSR and, on this basis, worked to intensify the socialist competition. The factory successfully fulfilled the first quarter plan and produced 50 thousand soums of additional knitted products. 17 women of the factory started production in 1973. In order to improve the quality of products, 11 women made 12 valuable proposals for improving labor and increasing labor productivity based on new technology in two months. Due to the implementation of these proposals in production, an economic profit of 1160 soums was obtained.[7]

The Women's Council played a great role in organizing the work of women at the factory, conducting mass-political, educational work among them, and actively involving them in public affairs. There were 9 members of the Women's Council at the factory, and the chairman of the Women's Council, Shodiyeva, distributed tasks among her members. They showed great dedication in fulfilling the tasks assigned to them. In 1972, out of 617 women at the factory, 583 were directly employed in production, 32 women were agitators, 4 women were political informants, and 37 girls and women diligently performed political organizing tasks.

Workers of the Romitan district household service complex have decided to fulfill five months of personal orders by May 1st. Muxiba Tosheva has become known among her colleagues for her honest work. The skilled seamstress working in the sewing shop of the complex has earned everyone's admiration by sewing clothes to the taste of customers. The master craftsman with a beautiful hand has many students. Motorists such as Khosiyat Niyozova, Bilmur Akhmedova, and Zulfiya Toshpolatova consider Muxiba opa their mentor. The shop masters, who joined the socialist competition movement launched in honor of May 1st, decided to fulfill orders for several thousand soums in addition to the April plan.

The party organization of the Bukhara knitting factory paid great attention to the organization of the socialist competition. In 1971, the resolution of the Central Committee of the CPSU "On further improving the organization of the socialist competition" was developed in all workshops. The head of the agitation collective, a member of the Party Bureau S. Raupov, reorganized his work based on the decisions of the 24th Congress of the CPSU. 39 qualified workers were assigned to workshops and brigades. In the workshops and brigades assigned to them, they developed the resolution of the Central Committee of the party on the organization of the socialist competition. Such hardworking agitators as M. Abbosova, M. Muhammadiyeva, M. Tohirova were especially active. The workers of the enterprise fully approved the decision of the

The factory had 73 communist members according to the Party organization. They were united in 6 trade union party organizations. All communists actively participated in the socialist competition. The party organization has a perspective plan for one year. Based on this plan, party meetings are held with thorough preparation. Efforts are made to increase the educational role of party meetings, which are the highest body of the party organization, and to use them to further develop internal party democracy. Important

issues related to production were discussed at the party meetings. At the end of the inter-trade socialist competition, issues of material incentives for the winners of the competition are considered. Due to this, the socialist competition has become widespread in the enterprise. The strength and influence of the socialist competition largely depend on the popularization of its results. Taking this into account, the party organization has taken a good step of informing the workers about the achievements of the production pioneers and the results of the inter-sectoral competition. [13] Agitators announce the results of the competition in the workshops, in addition, the results of the competition are announced in the wall newspaper, "Fighting leaflets". The names of the pioneers are written on the "Honor Board". Due to this, the number of communist labor heroes in the enterprise has increased steadily. The 1st workshop collective, headed by the communist Muharram Azizova, took the lead in the socialist competition. The workshop collective undertook to fulfill the five-year plan in four years. On this basis, the socialist competition has provided benefits. Monthly plans are constantly being exceeded. S. Sodiqova, F. Muhammedova, H. Sattorova, I. Ismoilova, I. Murodova, F. Rahmatova and others produced knitted products in October 1971 for the year 1972. Labor productivity was 108 percent, and the quality plan was exceeded by one and a half percent.[8]

To provide the factory with new equipment, 62 new units (machines or sets of machines in technology) were installed from the beginning of the year. New units were installed in the sewing shop. Much attention was paid to creating working conditions for factory workers and providing them with financial incentives. During 1971-1972, 121 thousand soms were allocated for awards to advanced workers. The average salary of factory workers increased from 88 soms to 94 soms.

In 1972, the enterprise team competed with a knitwear factory in Samarkand. The factory girls and boys in Samarkand and Bukhara pledged to fulfill the ninth five-year task by December 5, 1975. By the end of the five-year plan, 300 new units were installed.

The factory and schools cooperated. The enterprise also had the opportunity to train qualified workers from young people to increase production. In addition to receiving education, upper-class students also worked at the factory, and the factory allocated funds for summer camps.[12]

One of the factory workers, Polat Sharipov, worked at the Bukhara Knitting Factory from 1929 to 1985. The Porsoyevs, D. Rizoyev, R. Khojimuhammedov, Sh. Muhammedov, S. Nazarov, B. Zavlyanov, I. Sharipov, Qosimzoda, Z. Qosimova, S. Kuliyeu, O. Nematova and others also worked at this factory. In 1990, the director of the Bukhara knitting factory named after R. Vakhobov Tel'man, in an article in the Bukhara Haqiqi newspaper, stated: in the initial period, when the artel was founded, only 80 people worked, but in the 1990s, more than 1,600 people worked. The factory was organized under the slogan "Communist Labor Strikers". In 1990, dozens of production leaders worked at the factory during the twelfth five-year plan period: "Communist Labor Strikers": Amina Latipova, Muslima Sodikova, Muharram Akhmedova, Oliya Khamraeva and Mikhail Kasimov from the cutting shop, Komil Sultanov from the dyeing shop, Salima Ochilova, Sharofat Khamidova and Marziya Rakhimova from the sewing shop. Most of the factory staff worked on the



basis of the socialist labor competition according to the thirteenth five-year plan. In 1990, 1,200 people participated in the thirteenth five-year plan competition in 28 brigades and 8 workshops, working for the honorable title of "Communist Labor Collective". In May 1990, the five-month plan for the current year was fulfilled by 112.5%. The tradition of a master-student relationship was introduced at the factory, and there were 120 workers-mentors. Experienced masters in production generously taught young workers their professional skills. The 60th anniversary of the enterprise was celebrated in Bukhara. The transformation of a small handicraft enterprise in 1929 into a modern, developed production factory in 1990 is a vivid example of the rise of the working standards of the workers. The fame of the factory is known not only in our union, but also in foreign countries, and the giant complex served as a kind of foundation for the Bukhara Yarn and Textile Production Association.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the knitwear industry is of strategic importance for the development of the economy of Uzbekistan. The formation of the knitwear sector is one of the priority areas for the development of the national economy. Factories are being built in accordance with state directives on the location of industrial enterprises near raw material sources and the establishment of light industry enterprises close to residential areas. The establishment of the Knitting Factory in Bukhara was an important historical event. Since the fabrics made from cotton and silk grown in the Bukhara region were distinguished by their high quality, there was a need for the knitting industry. This factory played a significant role in creating great opportunities for the population.

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