

Case study 1

Paper industries-Auroville

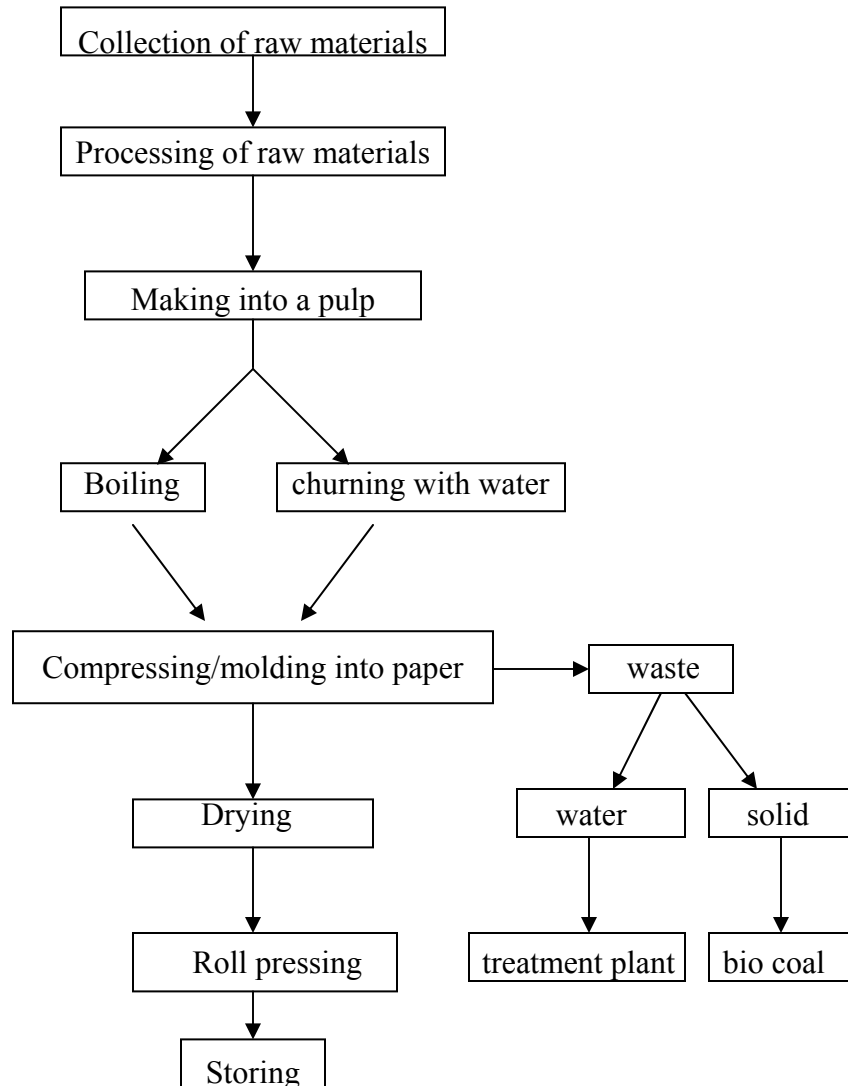
Auroville press-a paper and paper products manufacturing unit. (Total area 700 mt. sq.)

Office area (100 mt. sq.)

Products manufacturing area (100 mt. sq.)

Reception, lobby, entrance foyer, etc. (50 mt. sq.)

Diagrammatic study of different areas with their functions.



Areas and their functions

1. Collection of raw materials (25 mt. sq.)

The collection of local raw materials like casuarina leaves, dried people leaves, banana plant waste, dried flowers, t-shirt cloth, etc. is done in an open or semi open area.

The raw materials are soughed and stored in gunny bags in an open space.

Processing of raw materials

- Some raw materials like leaves, flowers, banana plant waste, etc. are boiled in a large vessel in a semi open rain protected shed and strained when cooled to obtain a pulp like consistency.
- For making linen paper cloth is used. Cloth is cut into small pieces and segregated color wise. Different colors of cloth will give its color of paper. This is done in a closed room with huge wall mounted vessels for storing of the cut cloth.

3. Converting into pulp (150 mt. sq.)

- The processed raw materials are then feeded into a machine which churns and mixes them with water.
- A thick watery pulp then is transferred manually by buckets on the compressing machines.
- The compressing machine converts them into paper of the required form and thickness.

4. Drying (100 mt. sq.)

- Different textures are given by various natural dried elements like dried fruits and flowers, ropes, textured leave etc.
- The molded paper is then dried on ropes with clips in a semi covered area.

5. Finishing (50 mt. sq.)

- The dried paper is then put into a roller press for straitening.
- Edges of some paper are trimmed by a cutting machine.

6. Storing (100 mt. sq.)

- The paper is stored in a rodent free, fire proof closed store room in organized racks of their own type.

Uses of this handmade paper

- Widely used in stationary products like note books, writing pads, office accessories, school stationeries, etc.
- Used by unit making paper lampshades.(Aladin)
- Used for making paper boxes, calendars, dairies, etc.(Papyrus)
- Packaging in bakery and other products.(A.V. bakery)

- Producing greeting cards by another unit.(Shrandhanjali)
- For printing in the press.(A.V. press)
- Donated to village schools.
- Sold as handmade paper in its natural form for its beauty and textures.

Advantages of the handmade paper

- The hand made paper is made from waste products like garden waste, unwanted cloth pieces etc. and not from felling of trees.
- It does not use any detergents or harmful chemicals.
- It uses simple, basic machinery which consumes optimum power.
- It is an eco friendly non polluting product which is easily bio degradable.
- The industry produces minimum, recyclable and reusable waste.
- The same product becomes a major raw material for the handicraft industry.
- The product produced here can satisfy the need of many other small units using paper for their products instead of importing it from elsewhere hence making the market local and helping Auroville to become self sufficient.
- It gives employment to the many people in and around Auroville.