

## **Industrial self-sufficiency not always the optimum solution**

We have been taught by our professors in the faculty of engineering and production and industrial engineering departments that industrial self-sufficiency and integration are the optimum gateway to industrial growth and development.

We have seen companies buying the industries that are feeding their production while others are expanding the base of their self-reliance services.

We began to see new activities in industries that were doing fine without them. Such activities have started to be regarded as subsidiaries to provide cleaning and guarding services, the transfer of garbage and waste, car maintenance workshops and supplying meals for the workers through the new departments they are creating.

A few years later, all substantial matters related to the cost and revenue are expected to pale into insignificance. The matter will even grow uglier with the administrative deterioration in the control over quality elements in these operations, as cleaning is no longer done in a proficient way, guards are getting older and more sluggish and garbage and waste transfer operations are causing pollution due to the rampant corruption and malfeasance.

The cost of car maintenance and partial overhauling exceeds the cost of maintenance if it is done outside the factory, to say nothing of its quality.

As for the institution's self-reliance in providing food for its employees it is more than worse in terms of the cleanness of the kitchen, the purchase of foodstuff, cooking and preparation of meals and dish washing.

Although industrial and administrative engineering experts have a theory different from what we have been taught before, we have learnt not to pay too much attention to the acceptance of the opposite theory and the change in the industrial logic.

It needs no meditation to see that the market of industrial services is an open market where everyone is competing to offer high-quality services at better prices and on-time delivery.

This is very reasonable, as dissatisfaction with the quality of food, or maintenance, or the transfer of garbage, or guarding or cleaning needs nothing but changing the supplier, which usually takes place in one day or a week at most, avoiding the less-economic option: the necessity to increase the salaries of those working in these unproductive activities and creating more social, medical and insurance burdens vis-à-vis a decline in the offered service as a natural result of old age.

Perhaps some industrial companies in various economic fields have realized this problem, as they have started to outsource cleaning, machine and car maintenance, meals, security and guarding and garbage transfer services, and thus making a success of this theory at the practical level.