CHAPTER VI
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS
Among the village and small scale industries, handloom weaving industry occupies a prominent place in the economy of Andhra Pradesh next to agriculture. At present, there are 40 lakhs of people who directly or indirectly depend on estimated six lakh handlooms. Generally speaking, this sector is organised by master weavers, co-operative and independent weavers, producing cotton, silk and woolen cloth.

One of the important areas in handloom weaving is silk weaving. In Andhra Pradesh, Dharmavaram of Anantapur district is known for its handloom silk. Still it has good potentiality and attracting those who are engaged in non-weaving caste occupations. Because of this potentiality, the people from rural areas are migrating to Dharmavaram town to get better employment opportunities and to earn better incomes.

In the present study an attempt has been made to study the socio-economic conditions of silk weavers so as to study the occupational diversification and to examine the entrepreneurial potentiality among the silk weavers.
The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyse the socio-economic conditions of the silk weavers.
2. To study the occupational diversification among the silk weavers.
3. To examine the entrepreneurial potentiality among the silk weavers.

Of the total estimated 15,527 households in the Dharmavaram town, 7,536 are weaving households. Out of these 7,536 weaving households, 2,395 weaving households are estimated to be settled only after the year 1981 and these settlers were considered as migrants. Among these migrant silk weaver households 838 households belonged to non-weaving castes. Out of these households, 100 households have been selected for this study on the basis of the random sampling method. The data collected from the sample migrant silk weavers has been analysed with reference to the caste category of the respondents.

In the present study, all the respondents belong to the non-weaving castes and 76 per cent belonged to the backward castes. All the respondents are males. The average age of the respondents is 34 years and a majority of the respondents fall in the productive age
group 20 to 30 years. A substantial proportion of 70 per cent of the respondents are literates but only one respondent is a graduate. As many as 81 per cent of the respondents are married and only one respondent is widowed. A majority of 56 per cent of the respondents have families with 4 to 6 members. Only 26 per cent of the respondents are residing in the houses with brick walls and R.C.C. roof and remaining are residing in houses with thatched walls and thatched roof. Only 40 per cent of the respondents have their own houses. The value of the residence ranges from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 60,000 in the case of 57 per cent of the respondents. Further, as many as 92 per cent of the respondents have got the electricity connection for their houses.

Regarding the occupational characteristics, as many as 70 per cent of the respondents are labour weavers and the rest are independent weavers. Further, 19 per cent of the respondents who are independent weavers have only one loom. A majority of 67 per cent of the respondents have their annual earnings ranging from Rs. 6,000 to 10,000. As regards to the indebtedness, as many as 70 per cent of the respondents are indebted and the amount of debt per indebted respondent is more
than Rs. 6,000 in respect of 52 per cent of the respondents. Most of the respondents are indebted to their respective master weavers. However, more than 47 per cent of the respondents have taken loans for developing their weaving enterprises.

With regard to occupational diversification among the silk weavers, it has been found that occupational diversification has occurred in respect of as many as 90 per cent of the respondents during their own generation and in only 10 per cent of the respondents occupational diversification occurred during their father's generation. Thus occupational diversification has taken place in the case of the respondents on account of their migration to the Dharmavaram town.

Further, a majority of 75 per cent of the respondents have shifted from agriculture and agricultural labour to silk weaving. Only 10 per cent of the respondents belonging to the artisan castes have shifted their occupation from jajmani service to silk weaving.

A majority of the respondents have diversified their occupation to get gainful employment and to earn more income. Further, more than 60 per cent of the total respondents have been persuaded by their friends and relatives to take up silk weaving occupation.
Before occupational diversification the number of working hours per day was less than eight hours in the case of 86 per cent of the respondents, while the corresponding figure in the present silk weaving occupation is more than eight hours in the respect of 80 per cent of the respondents. Further, the number of working days per month was less than 20 days in the case of 89 per cent of the respondents in their previous occupations, while the corresponding figure is more than 20 days in respect of 67 per cent of the respondents in their present occupation. Thus, it may be observed that occupational diversification has resulted in additional employment in the case of a majority of the respondents.

A majority of 87 per cent of the respondents were having an annual income of less than Rs. 6,000 in their previous occupations, while the corresponding figure is more than Rs. 8,000 in respect of 52 per cent of the respondents in their present occupation. Thus occupational diversification has been found to be beneficial to the respondents in increasing their earnings.

Therefore, it may be observed that occupational diversification has resulted in gainful employment
and increased earnings in respect of a majority of the respondents.

As regards the entrepreneurial potentiality of the respondents it has been found that, while 30 per cent of the respondents are practising the silk weaving because it is as good as any other occupation, another 29 per cent of the respondents are practising silk weaving because it is more profitable than the other occupations. More than 70 per cent of the respondents are procuring the raw material through their master weaver only. As many as 87 per cent of the respondents are taking the help from the master weaver in regard to colour combinations and border designs. Further, a majority of 71 per cent of the respondents are assessing the market fluctuations through the master weaver only. Only 35 per cent of the respondents have the designing ability.

More than 80 per cent of the respondents are having opinion that they have a bright future in the silk weaving occupation.

Thus, a majority of the respondents are positively motivated about the silk weaving occupation. A majority of the respondents are in a position to take certain amount of risk and uncertainty in the silk
weaving occupation. A majority of the respondents are facing the problems in mobilising the necessary resources in the silk weaving occupation. Further, a majority of the respondents have either strongly agreed or agreed with the view that decision-making in relation to their business must be instinctive and spontaneous and that decision-making must be based on priorities.

As many as 66 per cent and 63 per cent respondents are having a high entrepreneurial potentiality with regard to motivation and decision-making respectively. Further, 49 per cent and 30 per cent of the respondents are having a high entrepreneurial potentiality with regard to the aspects of risk and uncertainty and resource mobilisation respectively.

Besides, it may be noted that a majority of the respondents possess a high to very high entrepreneurial potentiality with respect to motivation, risk and uncertainty, decision-making and resource mobilisation in the silk weaving occupation.

Thus, it may be observed that the entrepreneurial potentiality of a majority of the respondents practising silk weaving is quite high which can be further improved by providing necessary incentives and required facilities.
On the basis of the findings of the study, the following broad conclusions can be drawn.

1. Occupational diversification has taken place in the case of the non-weaving castes on account of their migration to Dharmavaram town. Thus, migration leads to occupational diversification.

2. Occupational diversification has resulted in gainful employment and increased earnings in the case of the respondents, which in turn, resulted in an improvement in their living conditions.

3. The entrepreneurial potentiality among the migrants belonging to non-weaving castes and pursuing silk weaving appears to be quite high in respect of motivation and risk taking ability, but not quite high in respect of decision-making ability and resource mobilisation ability.

4. Since the silk weavers are positively motivated and are prepared to take certain amount of risk, their entrepreneurial potentiality can be further increased by providing necessary infrastructural facilities and support services.

In the light of the findings of the study, the following suggestions may be made for promoting
entrepreneurship development among the silk weavers belonging to non-weaving castes.

1. The silk weavers may be encouraged to form into a co-operative society.

2. Training camps may be organised in order to upgrade the skills of the silk weavers particularly in respect of border designing and choosing the colour combinations.

3. Liberal institutional finance may be made available to the silk weavers, so that they can take up silk weaving independently.

4. Necessary arrangements may be made for the supply of raw-material to the silk weavers co-operative society for an equitable distribution among the silk weavers and assured marketing facilities may be provided.