Chapter 2

Design and Methodology
STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

With the advent of economic planning in the country, sericulture industry set out on its course of progressive development through the consecutive Five Year Plans. Realising the significance of sericulture as a rural industry and its capacity to generate greater employment opportunities in the villages as also to increase the raw silk production in the country so as to meet the both the domestic and international demands, the government of India and the State Governments have been paying emphasis to the development of sericulture industry in the country.
Sericulture has been developed in India as an agro-based cottage industry with tremendous scope to contribute to the rural economy. It is one of the most labour-intensive sector in the Indian economy combining both agriculture and industry. Of late, sericulture has turned out to be a highly remunerative cash crop with minimum investment, but rich dividends. It is the most lucrative agro-based enterprise having potential to provide regular employment to rural folk. As a highly employment-oriented and low capital-intensive activity, sericulture is compatible to India's rural structure, where agriculture continues to be the principal occupation of the people. In view of the unique role played by sericulture industry in bringing about rural transformation, both the central and state governments have been initiating concerted efforts to place the industry on lines of expansion.

The State of Andhra Pradesh has made remarkable progress in sericulture industry and it occupies the second place next to Karnataka in the country. More than 70 per cent of the industry in the state is richly
concentrated in the four districts of Rayalaseema region viz., Anantapur, Chittoor, Cuddapah and Kurnool.

It is obvious that sericulture plays a strategic role in the rural development. Many small and marginal farmers would be able to gain employment opportunities through mulberry cultivation and silkworm rearing. However, sericulture development is not devoid of problems. The industry has been confronting a plethora of problems adversely affecting its growth. The major problems and bottlenecks that stand in the path of sericulture development are inadequate infrastructural facilities like sophisticated grainages, chawkie rearing centres, demonstration-farms, technical service centres, regulated cocoon markets and reeling units. The out-molded and crude methods of mulberry cultivation and silkworm rearing are regarded as severe setbacks in the speedy development of sericulture industry. Besides, these several other technical, production, financial, marketing and managerial problems adversely affect the growth of the industry. All these problems need a scientific probe
and immediate attention so as to place the industry in right perspective.

OVERVIEW OF LITERATURE

A brief review of some of the past studies is enshrined here. The review highlights the important area covered by many research workers and academicians which are of help to the issues relating to the present study.

An important document which deals with an employment oriented strategy of industrialisation is the Village and Small Scale Industries Committee Report of 1955, popularly known as the Karve Committee Report. The committee notes that since a substantial number of the unemployed and under employed belong to village and small industries group, setting up of small scale and village industries in which they have been traditionally trained and for which they posses equipment. The committee recognised the necessity of introducing better techniques in the village industries, so that they can keep pace with the progressively expanding economy and do not become unsuitable to tomorrow's needs but the
improvement in technique can be permitted only so long as it has no deleterious effects on employment.

Chowdhury\(^2\) in his book has made an attempt to present the position of silk industry in India and the world covering in a nutshell aspects like plantation, rearing, production, distribution, marketing etc. A chapter is also devoted specially to the scientific aspects of the silkworm culture and its importance from the researchers' point of view.

Naidu and Naidu\(^3\) are of the view that sericulture assures employment opportunities throughout the year with reasonable income to the rural agricultural workers and controls seasonal unemployment and the amount of human labour per acre of mulberry is more than four times of sugarcane. The authors have felt that "the Seventh Plan Period aims at reducing the percentage of people below the poverty line to 23 as compared with the expected 37 at the end of the Sixth Plan and 51 at its commencement". Unless the pattern of investment is changed in favour of village and small scale industries and direct investments are made at places where poor
people earned their bread, it would not succeed well. In this context, the development of sericulture assumes a pivotal role in providing employment and income to the rural poor.

Abdul Aziz and Hanumappa's book examines the various techno-economic problems faced by silk industry in India in general and Karnataka in particular. The authors expressed that the development of silk industry depends not only on the possibility of expanding the export market but also is closely linked with the efforts to increase the efficiency of the production units.

Krishnaswamy pointed out that Indian sericulture has been characterised by low productivity, higher cost of production and poor quality of raw silk output. The author is of the opinion that in the early phase, for over 15 years, the research centres were very much handicapped for want of adequate financial support. Despite, the very meager research support in terms of qualified staff and modern laboratory facilities and equipments, the sericulture scientists accepted the challenges and worked hard enough to find solutions to
the long standing major ills of the industry. He re-emphasised that there are two reasons—(i) requirement of higher technical service much more than agriculture and (ii) high degree of technical management, mainly responsible for many of the problems of sericulture industry. In addition, the author recommended a package of measures to overcome some hard pressed problems faced by sericulture industry in the country.

A pioneering research study on “Economics of Sericulture and Silk Industry in India” was undertaken by Ramana⁶. The study provides a comprehensive idea of sericulture, its role and economic importance in a developing country like India with particular reference to Andhra Pradesh. Empirical aspects of sericulture have been studied in this book on the basis of field investigations carried out in the four districts of Rayalaseema region in Andhra Pradesh. The author viewed that sericulture in Andhra Pradesh must strive for perspective planning and to speed up the development. Further the author remarks that modern infrastructure
and effective marketing network are crucial to the viability of any programme of sericulture development.

Rao sericulture industry which has the potentiality to generate employment opportunities at a low capital outlay by harnessing the existing skills of rural folk offers a profitable alternative. The author expressed that sericulture in Andhra Pradesh is mainly concentrated in the districts of Anantapur, Chittoor, Cuddapah and Kurnool in order of importance. Realising the vast potentiality of silk as rural employer, capable of raising the standard of living of the rural folk of the state. The government of Andhra Pradesh had allotted a total outlay of Rs.24.5 crores during the VIth Plan and Rs.35.2 crores during the VIth Plan Periods for sericulture development under various plan schemes like DPAP,IRDP etc. The author pointed out that the existing infrastructure is not enough to cater to the growing demand of the industry. It is observed that the seed farmers supplied only 30 million of seed cocoons to the state grainages as against the state's requirement of 90 million. The author felt that
there is an urgent need to augment the number and capacity of seed farms in the state.

Maniraju's paper looks at industrialisation in urban areas which create more employment opportunities and resulted in migration of labour force to urban areas. Under these circumstances, sericulture which is a labour intensive industry, plays a stupendous role in generating gainful employment opportunities to the villagers. The author strongly viewed that sericulture is an effective tool for rural development and felt that the need for initiating efforts to tap the potentialities available for production of all the four varieties of silk in different parts of the country.

Sanjay Sinha focusses on the aspect of silk production including sericulture which is a highly employment oriented, low capital intensive activity ideally suited to the condition of a labour abundant and agro-based economy. The study seeks to examine various dimensions of sericulture industry and to suggest in a long term perspective, strategy for strengthening the contribution of sericulture activity to rural development.
The author suggested a more systematic approach to obtain the socio-economic information necessary to determine the development impact of silk production. Keeping in view the commercial viability of sericulture, the author stressed the need for evolving more professional as well as commercial long term strategies in realising the wealth of opportunities that exists.

A study undertaken by the Central Silk Board\textsuperscript{10} brought forth many interesting observations that sericulture plays and its vital role in alleviating rural unemployment and poverty in the Third World. It stops migration from rural areas to towns and cities. It transfers income from rich to poor. At the national level, there has been significant increase in the demand of silk, witnessing better prospects for sericulture in India. The author strongly emphasised the need for integrating sericulture with rural development programmes in co-ordination with State Sericulture Departments. The study also recommended adequate flow of finance in backward areas and creation of sufficient infrastructure in
the southern states, where sericulture is richly concentrated.

Tripurari Sharma's study throws a flood of light on a very wide field—economic situation, plantation, rearing, and cooking, reeling, spinning, twisting, degumming, weaving, design, dyeing, printing, anticreases etc. The author pointed out that the silk sector as whole, has been subject to severe exploitations at the hands of merchants, particularly, the Indian merchants never paid any attention to develop its technologies, consequently the Indian skill still remains for inferior to the world standard inspite of constant effort made by the government after independence. The compulsions of technological backwardness have not only given birth to unwanted cultures and unhygienic conditions of fatalism but have also narrowed down the opportunities of artisans. The author felt that there is a great need to tap the latest trends in the field of modern science and technology for rapid expansion of sericulture and silk industry in India.

Jacob Thomas study revealed that the credit flow to the sericulture sector is insufficient and tardy. According
to him sericulture requires credit basically for four areas of operation - for promotion of irrigation facilities, for construction of rearing houses and provision of rearing equipments and for farm operations including the short term credit for mulberry cultivation and rearing. The author pointed out the reasons like information gaps, insufficient training, inadequate monitoring, lack of co-ordination of the agencies involved etc. are primarily responsible for inadequate flow of credit to sericulture sector. The author emphasised on the importance of taking follow-up action on the suggestions offered by the research studies in the related areas.

Ganga and Sulochana Chetty\textsuperscript{13} said that sericulture is currently practiced in more than thirty countries of the world. According to them the technique of mulberry cultivation, the method of silkworm rearing and the art of silk reeling originated in China nearly 300 years ago. Sericulture found its way to other countries through smuggling, through artisans captured as prisoners of war, through monks and various other ways. The author opined that sericulture is more lucrative when compared
with other ventures. It provides attractive incomes to the farmers. Hence, the farmers taking up this activity should plan properly to maximize the profit.

Kerutagi, Shankara Murthy and Patil in their paper studied different problems of sericulture enterprises with special reference to Bijapur district of Karnataka State. The authors selected Jannakhand taluk in the Bijapur district. In all, five villages from this taluk having a maximum area under mulberry crop were selected. From this taluk sixty six cultivators were randomly selected on the basis of proportion to the area under mulberry and the number of cultivators for an analytical study. The field study conducted by the authors identified certain problems in mulberry cultivations, silkwarm rearing and cocoon marketing. The study offered certain relevant suggestions to overcome the problems so as to place the sericulture industry on main track.

Periaswamy and Radhakrishnan in their paper reviewed the historical development of silk in a phased manner. According to the authors, Chinese emperors guarded the secret of silk in the province of Chan Tong for
hundreds of years and displayed its beauty to foreign visitors and fancied it as "the hair of C-She". China was the first country to learn the secret of silk followed Korea. Chinese immigrants started sericulture by about 1200 B.C. The industry later spread to Japan and India. However Hindu epics more than 200 years old refer to silk. The authors revealed that the modern silk industry in India has grown to meet the domestic rather than export requirements and this is a fact of great importance for the industry. Further this industry provides employment opportunities to 6 million people in India and plays a key role in the upliftment of rural economy besides having considerable foreign exchange.

Man Jeet S. Jolly 16 admitted that sericulture today has become an important rural occupation with industrial super structure, out beating other major crops. The development of modern techniques in tropical sericulture has opened up new avenues. Today's, many developing countries are availing this opportunity and have taken up this new venture. Although, the research studies have proved that it is possible to achieve 195 kgs. of silk
production per hectare/year, the present productivity trend is estimated at 32.6 kgs. There is a vast potential that needs to be exploited. This will go a long-way in developing rural economy.

Periaswamy\textsuperscript{17} in his paper briefly reviewed the Problems and prospects of sericulture industry. He has strongly emphasised that sericulture is an agriculturally oriented industry and its success depends upon its improvement through research and how the problems that confront it are overcome. He advocated the need for using new varieties of mulberry cuttings like Kanva-2 and Mysore local varieties for higher yield of mulberry leaf. He stressed the need for formulating constructive strategy to overcome the problems in the areas of mulberry cultivation and cocoon production. He also paid attention towards the prospects for development of sericulture in non-traditional areas.

Sheela Bhide's\textsuperscript{18} paper throws light on participation of women in sericultural activities in Andhra Pradesh. The paper seeks to evaluate the Action Plan prepared by the department of sericulture, Government of Andhra Pradesh
in 1994 [the year 1994 declared by the government as the year of women in sericulture] with an outlay of Rs.144.23 lakhs. The objective of the Action Plan was to ensure greater participation of women in sericultural activities in the areas like improving access to resources, enhancement of managerial autonomy, and imparting better knowledge and skills.

Ramakrishnan\textsuperscript{19} provides some thoughts on corporate sericulture. The author viewed that planning for a successful working model of later age silkworm rearing will enhance the confidence of farmers and encourage them to take up sericulture. The author felt that the raw silk required for weaving should be partly produced in house and partly sourced from outside. Finally, he attested the view that even though the prospects for corporate sector in sericulture are bright, they will have to be ascertained whether the price realisable for raw silk yarn can sustain project viability prior to investing in this area.

Jagannath\textsuperscript{20} in his paper has made an attempt to analyse the cost structure, income and employment
generation and the problems of sericulture in Coimbatore of Tamilnadu state. The author observed that one of the reasons for continued interest of the government seems to be the techno-economic advantages of sericulture activities as compared to other ventures. The study also focused on the major problems that stand in the path of sericulture development.

Sinha Prasad and Ghosh\textsuperscript{21} thoroughly examined the possibilities of extending sericulture to non-traditional areas. The authors opined that a field unit should be established for creating necessary infrastructure for developing the sericulture industry and also to gain the confidence of the villagers. Further, interested and innovative farmers should be identified for undertaking a full-fledged demonstration and training under the close supervision of the technical staff in that field unit. The authors further viewed that demonstration programmes should be organised very carefully towards success as any failure cannot regain farmer's confidence, once lost, entire efforts will yield nothing but frustration. If
successful demonstration is carried out, then it will be easy to introduce a new thing in a new area.

Chikkanna, Sarangi, Singhvi, Iyengar\textsuperscript{22} came out with a view that there is dominance of large scale rearers and reelers in the class-I cocoon markets. They further noted that there is preference of educated rearers alone in selecting class-I cocoon markets, even if they are at distant places. This is mainly because of healthy competition, more remunerative prices, involvement of government machinery, better facilities and existence of reeling units on large scale surrounding the class-I cocoon markets. The authors strongly emphasised the need for maintaining uniform facilities among different categories of cocoon markets, motivating the reelers to participate actively in class-II cocoon markets and providing better communication facilities to make rearers/reelers aware of prevailing market rates etc.

Department of Sericulture\textsuperscript{23} pointed out that the growth of sericulture in Andhra Pradesh in the non-farm sector is not proportionate to the growth of acreage under mulberry cultivation. Cocoons produced in the state are
sold to the neighbouring states like Karnataka and the
yarn produced from these cocoons, is then bought by the
weavers of Andhra Pradesh at a much higher cost. The
state thus loses valuable revenue and employment
opportunities for the youth. It concluded that there is an
urgent need to establish reeling units in the state to
create higher demand for cocoons harvested by the
farmers in the state.

A study of the National Bank for Agriculture and
Rural Development into the marketing and
infrastructural problems of sericulture industry in Andhra
Pradesh reviewed briefly the growth and development of
sericulture in Andhra Pradesh. The study also traced out
the problems of sericulture industry in the areas of
production, finance and marketing. The study further
offered a package of measures to overcome the problems
and place the sericulture industry in right perspective.

Balakrishna has taken pains to lucidly explain the
entire sericulture industry both at the global and Indian
context and has explained in 11 chapters starting from
introduction to the bye-product availability and
utilisation. He strongly opined that to update the statistical data pertaining to global and Indian silk industry and avoid much of academic inclusions like the texonomical aspect is a big way. The effort of the author needs appreciation for a better addition in the local language preferably to serve the interests of sericulturists of Andhra Pradesh.

Charles Geigar in his paper explained that Indian silk industries providing gainful employment to 6 million people directly or indirectly. In all spheres of sericulture India is self-sufficient to a greater extent. Major strength of the Indian silk industry is its domestic market potential for different varieties of silk fabrics produced together with the availability of great varieties in design, colours and combinations. The author further adds that from times immemorial, the exclusive silk fabrics from India have been in greater demand in the European markets. In his perception, SERI-2000 is a bilateral follow up programme aiming at improving the sustainability of Indian sericulture through quality and productivity improvement.
Venkateswarlu has presented a vivid picture that during the year 1999-2000 an extent of 1.08 lakh acre has brought under mulberry cultivation in Andhra Pradesh and estimated that 5.43 lakh persons are dependent directly and indirectly on sericulture in the state.

He is of the opinion that low productivity at field level due to adverse climatic and hygienic conditions prevailing in rural areas, weak linkage in post-cocoon operations and adherence of silk weavers to traditional weaving methods are the constraints to sericulture industry in the state.

The productivity per acre is about 300 kgs. which is too low when compared to that of sericulturally advanced countries like China and Brazil unless the productivity is increased to about 500-600 kgs. per acre, the sustenance of the sericulture industry will be difficult and in his paper he felt that it is a challenge and the department is making all efforts to increase the productivity coupled with quality.

He also viewed that for the sustenance and development of reeling industry, sufficient provision for
providing the working capital would be made. The department is providing 5 per cent interest subsidy on working capital for the reelers having cottage and multiend basins. The intention is to reduce the interest burdens to the entrepreneurs.

He made it clear in his paper that though sufficient efforts put in by the department for the development of silk reeling and twisting earlier and during NSP, the development could not sustain. Therefore, the Herculean task is to develop non-farm sector of the industry in the state, especially reeling and twisting activities in phased manner, to establish enough number of basins and spindles for fetching higher demand for cocoons produced in the state.

**NEED FOR THE PRESENT STUDY**

The foregoing review of literature covering the studies at national and regional level provides some insights into their methodological aspects. It also proves that at the micro-level, an area-specific studies pertaining to the performance of sericulture industry in different functional areas are scanty, and no firm generalisations are
established due to diversity of circumstances. India being a vast country with diverse regions, varied resource-based and socio-economic conditions, the problems associated with sericulture industry differ from one area to the other. The problems involved in mulberry cultivation, silkworm rearing, cocoon production and marketing in drought-prone and backward areas are peculiar in nature. Thus, more micro-level and area-specific studies are indispensable for better understanding the problems and prospects of sericulture. Cuddapah district in Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh in spite of being a drought prone and backward area, has been recognised as suitable for sericulture development. The present study, therefore, is a modest attempt to throw light on the problems and prospects of sericulture in Cuddapah district.

HYPOTHESIS

It is hypothesised that the performance of sericulture industry in Cuddapah district is not satisfactory.
OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Precisely, the objectives of the study are:

i. to review the growth and development of sericulture industry in Andhra Pradesh in general and Cuddapah district in particular;

ii. to examine the role of sericulture in rural development;

iii. to probe into the socio-economic conditions of sericulturists in Cuddapah district;

iv. to critically examine the problems and prospects of sericulture in Cuddapah district;

v. to assess the efficacy of Governments' Schemes and programmes for sericulture development in Cuddapah district; and

vi. to discern the scope for improving sericultural activities in Cuddapah district.

DATA BASE

The data for the study are drawn both from primary and secondary sources. A major chunk of the work is based on field investigations. Two schedules are constructed and pre-tested to collect information from the
sericulturists and officials concerned. The schedule designed for sericulturists is basically intended to gather first-hand information with regard to their family size, land-holdings, socio-economic background and the problems and other risk factors involved in mulberry cultivation, silkworm rearing, cocoon production and marketing. The schedule composed for officials concerned is aimed at seeking information on the efforts and strategies of the Government for promotion of sericulture industry in Cuddapah district.

The secondary data constitutes both published and un-published reports of Central and State Governments. The major sources of secondary data are drawn from libraries of various universities; Central Silk Board, Bangalore; Regional Office of the Central Silk Board, Hyderabad; Directorate of Sericulture, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad; Office of the Assistant Directors of Sericulture, Cuddapah and Rayachoty.

**TOOLS OF ANALYSIS**

The data collected for the study are tabulated and analysed. Statistical tools are employed at appropriate
contexts for arriving at useful inferences. Figures are also presented to illustrate the facts wherever necessary. The statistical tools carried in the study to analyse the data are:

**Co-efficient of Correlation**

Let x and y be two variables, then the correlation co-efficient between x and y is defined as

$$r_{xy} = \frac{\sum xy - \bar{x}\bar{y}}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{\sum x^2}{n} - \bar{x}^2\right)\left(\frac{\sum y^2}{n} - \bar{y}^2\right)}}$$

Where $x = \frac{\sum X_1}{n}$ and $y = \frac{\sum Y_1}{n}$

'\text{n}\text{'} be the number of observation

and

$$r = \frac{dx.dy - (dx.dy)}{n}$$

$$= \sqrt{\left(\frac{\sum dx^2}{n} - \frac{(dx^2)}{n}\right)} - \sqrt{\left(\frac{\sum dy^2}{n} - \frac{(dy^2)}{n}\right)}$$

**Co-efficient of variance**

It is used in such problems where the variability of two more series or groups is compared for which the
coefficient of variation is greater, said to be more variable otherwise consistent.

\[ \text{C.V.} = \frac{\text{S.D}}{\text{A.M}} \times 100 \]

Where \( \text{S.D.} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum x^2}{n}} \)

'n' be the number of observation.

**t-test**

Test the difference between the means of production and arrivals in select

\[ t = \frac{\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{\sum x_1^2}{n_1} - \bar{x}_1^2} \sqrt{\frac{\sum x_2^2}{n_2} - \bar{x}_2^2}} \sim N(0,1) \]

where \( \bar{x}_1 = \frac{\sum x_1}{n_1} \) and \( \bar{x}_2 = \frac{\sum x_2}{n_2} \)

**SAMPLE DESIGN**

Cuddapah district in Andhra Pradesh has been purposely selected for an indepth study. According to the
records of Assistant Director of Sericulture, Cuddapah, the district consists of 12 blocks as far as sericulture is concerned. The researcher has adapted a multi-stage representative random sampling of the entire universe of the study.

In the first stage, all the 12 blocks are broadly classified into 3 categories—viz., better performing blocks; normal performing blocks and under performing blocks on the basis of area under mulberry cultivation. Rayachoty block from the first category; Pulivendula block from the second category; and Rajampet block from the third category are selected at random. The second stage represents the sampling of villages covered by the select blocks. In each block, 4 villages have been chosen at random.

In the third stage, from each village, 10 per cent of the total mulberry growers (sericulturists) is drawn at random from the lists supplied by Assistant Director of Sericulture, Cuddapah and Rayachoty. But 13 respondents expressed their inability to spare time for the researcher. Consequently, they have been deleted from the sample frame. Therefore, the sample frame consists of 3
blocks; 12 villages; and 154 respondents. The details are clearly furnished in Table 2.1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl No</th>
<th>Name of the village</th>
<th>Mulberry cultivation</th>
<th>Sample size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Better Performing Block</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dudyala</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Settipalli</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sambepalli</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Devapatla</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Normal Performing Block</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>K. Cherloppalli</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Intepalli</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ganganapalli</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Agraharam</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Under Performing Block</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>K. Rachapalli</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Thippayapalli</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Karampalli</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mukkavaripalli</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,670</strong></td>
<td><strong>167</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from the records of Assistant Directors of Sericulture, Cuddapah and Rayachoty.
SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

Sericulture industry comprises a wide-variety of processes viz., mulberry cultivation; production of cross-breed disease free layings (CBDFLS-silkworm eggs); silkworm rearing – production and marketing of reeling cocoons; reeling of cocoons; twisting of yarn; and weaving of fabrics. Since the other activities are not prominent in Cuddapah district, the present study is confined to sericulture, which in turn covers mulberry cultivation; production of CBDFLS; silkwarm rearing – production and marketing of reeling cocoons.

The present study needs a moderate period so as to arrive at meaningful inferences. Therefore, the study broadly covers a ten year period starting from 1991-92 to 2000-2001. The sericulture industry has passed through
many passionating moments and the growth rate can also be seen in different dimensions during this study period. Consideration of homogeneity of data over a period of time and availability of latest data are also the other factors that determine the study period. As the sericulturists do not maintain proper books of account regarding their operations, it is not possible to interpret the analysis more accurately. The data and information so collected are subject to what may be called the errors of response in some degree or other. Such errors of response are largely due to the illiteracy and ignorance of most of the sample respondents. Paucity of time at disposal, limited resources, reluctance on the part of the most of the respondents to spare time for interviews are some of the other limitations.

Despite these limitations, the researcher made every conceivable effort in ensuring the authenticity, validity and reliability of the data collected by restoring to cross-questioning and posing supplemental questions. The findings and suggestions may be relevant for the districts
having similar agro-economic and socio-economic conditions.

CHAPTER SCHEME

The present study has been designed into SEVEN chapters.

Chapter -1 deals with a brief history of sericulture, growth and development of sericulture industry in India with special emphasis on the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Chapter - 2 spells out the design and methodology adapted for the study.

Chapter - 3 reviews the growth and development of sericulture in Cuddapah district.

Chapter - 4 examines the role of sericulture in rural development.

Chapter - 5 scans the various problems and prospects of sericulture in Cuddapah district. It also covers the analysis of field survey results.

Chapter - 6 seeks to examine the implementation of governmental schemes and programmes for sericulture development in Cuddapah district.

Chapter - 7 summarises the conclusions and suggestions.
REFERENCES


17. Periaswamy, K., Problems and Prospects of Sericulture, Ibid., pp.293-296.


