INTRODUCTION:

It is common in economic investigations to give them a quantitative characteristic. Such a discipline is regarded as more objective and amenable for drawing conclusions which are logically rigorous. Further, it would also facilitate the application of econometric techniques. Thus improving the objectivity of the enterprise and the scientific nature of investigation.

From this point of view the present study is different. It has not concerned itself with the quantitative data to the extent witnessed in other inquiries. The main purpose of this inquiry emerges from the assumption that the quantitative studies by themselves have not provided insights pointed and adequate to make explanation meaningful. They almost translate common sense observation into a mathematical and statistical mould. Beyond this they have not helped.

The most important question in textile industry - cotton as well as silk is the continued existence and expansion of the household weaving sector along with the progress of the industry. Even assuming that the handloom weaving sector is protected from the competition of the
mill made sector, the economic basis of protection remains unclear or the explanation offered like employment opportunities does not say anything not known earlier to common sense. Further more, the real transaction that take place within the household sector is not analysed or quantified. Thus, denying to ourselves valuable sources of information which would have explained the inner working of the sector.

Many weavers continue in the handloom sector because there is no opening for themselves elsewhere. Some of them convert this compulsion into an opportunity and become enterprising proprietors. They inturn organise a small establishment which is preferred to the co-operative movement. The masterweaver system as well as the Hungada system possesses the aspect of dynamism which are not revealed in the usual quantitative studies. Thus many economic observations tend to become slogans rather than revealing the nature of the interrelations governing them.

Another illustration may clarify this point. The statement that middleman must be avoided is almost taken to be a positive economic truth. On the other hand it is a normative statement and secondly, we need to examine the questions like - why middlemen emerge? What is the service they render? What is the opportunity cost of driving them out?
Do we drive out middlemen or substitute one type of middlemen, for another. What is the rate of substitution? Instead of rising these questions analyzing, examining and evaluating the facts, given constraints, we tend to Commerce our Economic investigation on the assumption that middlemen are unnecessary burden and therefore they need to be avoided.

The working of the household sector in respect of silk-weaving is full of such economic interrelationships based fairly strongly on economic assessments of opportunities and costs and eventual choice making in the direction of maximizing ones satisfaction. The role of the constraint should also be included in this.

It is in this frame of mind that the present investigation into functioning of silk-weaving establishments in Rayadrug is made. The author besides being a student of economic comes from the background of Rayadrug. The present study hopes to derive the benefit of both these backgrounds.

It will be pointed out in the last section how this study has offered some hypothesis for examination. They also point out the new indices in respect of the many function observed.
As this is a relatively new and different method attempting a micro-investigation in economics, it is likely to contain more fallacies than is known to the author. If the entire dissertation provides a simple testimony to the need for making organic studies in many aspects of rural life, the author would consider such a conclusion an adequate recompense for his efforts.

The methodology that has been followed in writing this dissertation is based mostly on my recorded evidence of frequent consultations with the masterweavers, the weaver-workers and the local silk twisting factory owners of Raydrug, to elicit their opinions for the questions posed to them.