CHAPTER-7

PROBLEMS OF SILK INDUSTRY IN ASSAM

7.1. Introduction:

The silk industry is associated with a chain of stages, interdependent on each other. These include seed production, rearing, reeling, weaving, marketing at different stages, trading etc. Each of these stages involves a number of activities. It is seen that each of these stages also face certain problems which affects the demand/profitability of the sericulturist.

The present chapter deals with the problems faced by five sectors in the chain of the silk industry, viz., seed sector, rearing sector, cocoon sector, yarn sector and fabric sector. After identifying the problems, Garret ranking technique has been done to rank the problems of the people practicing sericulture in the study area.

Henry E Garret (1961), in his book “Statistics in Psychology and Education”, explained a technique which is appropriate in our case. At the first step the respondents will be asked to rank the enlisted factors. Enlisted factors are those ten factors identified in a pilot survey. The orders of merit assigned by the respondents will then be converted into percentage position using the formula:

\[
\text{Percentage position} = 100 \times \frac{(R_{ij} - 0.5)}{N_{j}}
\]
Where, $R_{ij}$ is the rank given for the $i^{th}$ factory by $j^{th}$ individual; $N_j$ is the number of factors ranked by the $j^{th}$ individual.

The percentage position of each rank will then be converted into scores using the Garret and Woodworth (1969) Table. For each factor, the scores of individual’s respondents are added. Then the mean scores for all the factors will be arranged in descending order, revealing the importance of various factors.

The data for analyzing the problems faced by the silk industry has been collected from the respondents involved in each of the sectors in the study area such as seed producer, rearer, cocoon producer, yarn producer and the weaver. The results obtained have been discussed separately for each sector in the next sections.

7.2. Problems faced by the seed sector:

This is the most important sector of the whole industry. Because healthy and quality egg production is the primary requisite for conducive growth of the entire industry. The problems faced by the seed sector include,

i) **Shortage of quality seed:** The Muga raw silk production has not shown significant growth and has remained fluctuating between 24 MT to 114 MT from 1938-39 to 2011-12. The fundamental reason behind the low and poor production is shortage of quality Muga seed for commercial rearing. During proper season, non availability of quality seed in the required amount, for
conducting the commercial crop rearing has been attributed to be the major factor of the decline of Muga silk production (Anonymous, 2012).

Besides the shortage of quality seed there is also inconsistency of production and irregular supply of quality silkworm.

ii) **Environmental problem**: Since Muga rearing is an outdoor activity, therefore success of seed crop entirely depends on the environment factor. Some of the industrial unit such as oil, natural gas, and tea garden etc, directly affects Muga rearing. As a result, some of the seed producers have been compelled to shift from their original place and shift to some new places to rear Muga. This creates a number of problems for the rearers to get adjusted with a new environment. Again, due to environmental instability, there is low fecundity and low hatching during Aherua and Bhadia crop. For example in case of Aherua, there is too much of hot temperature.

iii) **Unscientific procedure**: Seed producer do not maintain scientific procedure for production of seed as it involves investing a lot of money in the production process. Again, supply of quality seed is inadequate as rearers produce bulk of their requirement themselves following unhygienic standard in grainage seed production.

iv) **Lack of Seed Organization**: Disease free quality seed is the prime requirement for development of the silk industry. The quality of silkworm seed may be
defined as the one where the laying are entirely free from diseases, has more number of viable eggs, gives uniform hatching and assures a stable and better crop. Technical manpower as well as infra-structure is required for production of disease-free seed which is known as seed organization (Rahman, 2013). Silkworm Seed Organization is vital for any successful sericulture programme.

Therefore, to produce good quality eggs, there must be a sound seed organization with proper elite seeds multiplication net-work to produce large quantities of quality commercial seed. Silkworm seeds are produced in the grainage and therefore grainage is the first and the most important aspect which needs special attention. The grainage operations consists of-

1) Identification and transportation of seed cocoons
2) Sorting of cocoons
3) Storage and preservation of egg
4) Coupling of pairs
5) Oviposition or egg laying
6) Female moth examination
7) Egg washing and preservation of eggs
8) Supply of eggs
9) Storage of cocoon etc.

Systematic and methodical grainage not only minimize larval mortality due to diseases, but also results in vigorous progenies.
Therefore from above analysis it is clear that seed organizations and grainage operation are necessary for proper seed production. But, in our study area, it is very rare to see such type of seed organization. Only the Government grainage system operates. Even here, these are not fully utilized, especially in case of Eri in the study area.

v) **Lack of well demarcated Seed Zone, Cluster and Seed rearers:** In the study it is also found that the supply of basic seed up to p2 level is not available to meet the increasing demand of the rearers. Since there is no well demarcated seed cluster or zone for seed production in Assam, therefore it is very difficult, particularly for the Muga rearers or cocoon producers, to get information about seed producers. The seed producers are scattered in different places of Assam and a few of them are also in Meghalaya.

vi) **Lack of appropriate technology:** There is no simple technology for producing Muga seed for commercial purpose. Absence of technology to skip unfavorable rearing seasons also limits production of Muga seeds to a large extent.

vii) **Problem of seed multiplication:** Both pre and basic seed crop rearing of Muga usually falls in unfavourable seasons decreasing the rate of multiplication of seed. Moreover there is a lack of Eri seed multiplication system because of the concept of parental and basic seed multiplication system in Eri sector.
viii) **Lack of commercialization:** Seed sector is still not modernized especially in case of Eri. Private Eri seed sector has not developed and no initiatives have been taken for commercial production of seed. It still remains a casual activity done by rural people during their free time. Again, due to the lack of commercialization, there is still a single race having narrow genetic base and variation with low commercial output.

ix) **Lack of insurance:** Another problem facing the silk industry is the lack of insurance facility to seed rearers. Many sericulturists give up this occupation because of loss incurred in the process of seed production. Since insurance facility to seed rearers is not available, therefore compensation is not given to the producer for the loss of the seed. Thus in the study area, it is found that most of the traditional sericulturist have now shifted to rubber plantation which gives sure and certain harvest/profit.

x) **Not recognized as an enterprise:** Till now Muga and Eri seed producing activity is not recognized as a state enterprise. Therefore it does not get that Government Incentives given to an enterprise. However, since supply of Muga seed from Government agencies like Muga Silk Worm Seed Organization (MSSO) and the Dept. Of Sericulture, Government of Assam, CSB etc. are not sufficient to fill up the demand gap of rearers, therefore private initiative to supply seed is very much essential.
xi) Psychological pressure: Since disposal of seed in proper time period is very essential for Muga seed sector, therefore sometimes the producer is found to be under fear psychosis of disposing off their seeds in time.

xii) Lack of imposition of seed legislation: The most important problem of this sector is that no seed legislation has been adopted by the Government or any regulatory authority for regulating and monitoring the seed sector, which is one of the basic needs of the silk industry.

xiii) Landless farmer: Since sericulturists are mostly landless marginal farmers, therefore another important problem is lack of suitable area for Muga seed crop rearing, particularly to avoid hatching failures especially during June to September.

xiv) Lack of education and awareness: Due to low level of education of the rearers, they are unaware of how and to what extent pesticides/medicine should be used, how properly dfi can be created. This leads to less production, caused by loss occurring due to prevalence of pest and predators, lack of awareness and less education among rearer. Therefore, prevalence of pest and predators and loss occurring due to them is another major problem of this sector.

xv) Existence of diseases: Disease poses a threat to productivity as well as quality of seeds. Seed production is affected by a number of disease which leads to inadequate and inferior quality production.
7.3. Problems of rearing sector:

This is an important sector of the sericulture industry because cocoon production depends on this activity. Rearing is a complicated process and it requires passion and time. Almost all family members except children are engaged in this activity in our study area. Since it is a time consuming process, therefore majority of women are involved in this activity. Cultivation of host plant is the important work of the rearer. However in the study, there is a systematic cultivation of host plant for Muga to some extent, and no systematic cultivation of host plant for Eri. Some of the problems facing the rearing sector are:

i) **Damage by pest and predators:** Silk worm (especially Muga) are exposed to many pest and predators and the vagaries of nature, thereby effecting the rearing activity which ultimately effects the cocoon production.

ii) **Existence of diseases:** Disease also affects the rearing activity. Diseases like graesarcie and flacherie cause high mortality of Muga in summer, whereas uzifyl and outbreak of muscardine disease inflicts significant losses during the winter.

iii) **Climatic conditions:** Rearing activity also depends on the climatic conditions. Occasional hail storm, incessant rain and temperature fluctuations in summer (April to August) causes heavy damages to the silk worm crops. Again non hatching of eggs during summer season also creates problems in rearing activity.
iv) **Lack of systematic plantation:** Non availability of well maintained systematic plantation which are convenient for supervision and rearing of young age silkworm constitute the fundamental problem of rearing activity. Though the concept of systematic and organized plantation has become popular through the implementation of different developmental schemes of the government, majority of the rearers use only scattered food plants. 77.8% plantations for Muga food plants are scattered and not at all systematic (Saikia, J, 2011). In case of Eri host plants, it is even more unsystematic and scattered.

v) **Inappropriate condition:** Absence of adequate condition during transportation and incubation of seed often leads to irregular hatching and impaired larval development.

### 7.4. Problems of Cocoon Sector:

Rearers produce cocoon on the basis of which weaver produce fabric which is the final product of silk industry. This makes cocoon production an important sector of the silk industry. There are two types of cocoon-

(a) Reeling cocoon

(b) Seed cocoon.

Reeling cocoon is used for commercial purposes i.e. to produce yarn and seed cocoon is used for producing seed. Majority of Muga rearers produce reeling
cocoon for commercial purpose. But in case of Eri, most of the rearers undergo this activity for fulfilling the domestic need. But BTAD and some areas of Boko and Palasbari in the Kamrup district are taking up this activity as a commercial venture. Following are the important problems facing the cocoon sector.

i) **Concentration in the weaving cluster:** Generally it is seen that most of the cocoon traders are concentrated nearby the weaving cluster or in the weaving centre. Therefore, the cocoon traders who are far away from these clusters always face more problems of disposing their products than the producer who live near the cluster area. As a result, they are bound to sell the cocoons at a lesser price.

ii) **Low quality:** Low quality of the cocoon is another major problem of this sector. Due to the small quantity of Eri cocoon transaction by individual rearer, it is not possible for them to get optimum price for their product and also they are unable to capitalize the better returns.

iii) **Improper location of market:** Although Assam Government has established cocoon market under the Golden Thread Projects, but in reality they are lying unutilized as no mechanism has been built up to operate these markets for cocoon transactions. Actually, the improper location of these markets does not fulfill the demand of the cocoon producers.

iv) **Absence of price mechanism:** The absence of a price fixing mechanism is a great problem of this sector. Since there is no regulatory authority and well established price mechanism to fix the cocoon price, therefore, the cocoon
producers are always deprived of the best price. What is offered by the traders is accepted by the cocoon producer. In reality, they are always price takers not price makers.

v) **Creation of artificial crises:** It is observed that traders are generally holding the cocoons for a long time creating artificial crises in the market to get better margin.

vi) **Lack of storage facility:** Since there is no facility for cocoon stifling and storage, the producers are not in a position to hold their product and bargain for better price. Therefore cocoon trading has become the monopoly of the traders only.

vii) **Fluctuating cocoon price:** Another problem facing the cocoon sector is the unstable price of cocoon. This uncertainty in the cocoon price puts the cocoon producer in an uncertain position. The result is that many cocoon producers have left this occupation and shifted to other business from which they can earn sure and certain profits. The Government of Assam has also lagged behind in this regard. The Government has established three cocoon banks for Muga in Boko, Udalguri and Sibsagar. However, their functions are at the minimum level. Intervention of MRMB is also very negligible, i.e., 0.55% of the total volume of the trade (Saikia, 2011).
7.5. Problems of Yarn Sector:

Another important sector of the sericulture industry is the yarn sector. Reeler and spinner is the yarn producer. They are generally concentrated near the weaving or cocoon producing cluster. In our study area, we observe that there are different types of yarn producers or reellers or spinners. Some of the reellers are independent. They produce yarn for their own consumption. Others are working for master weavers or traders. In this sector, middle man plays a vital role. Frequently, traders play the role of a middle man. It is also revealed from the study that because of this trader or middle man, actual reeler does not get proper price for their service. Again those reellers or spinners who have a strong financial position, collect cocoon from different cocoon producers and produce yarn and sell them in Sualkuchi and Palasbari, Bijaynagar weaving cluster in Kamrup district and Balijana Anchalik Samabai Samitee and Ranjuli Government weaving center in Goalpara district. In spite of these, the study also shows that the traditional reellers who use traditional method (use Bhir or Takuri) produce less yarn than the modern reeler who use modern method (use reeling machine). In reality, machine can produce eight times more than the traditional instruments. The commonly use reeling machine is RMRS-III

Following are the important problems facing the yarn sector:

i) Lack of Capital: Due to the lack of education and trainings, the entrepreneurial ability of sericulturists has not developed. The most common problem of this sector is the absence of entrepreneurial approach. The
economic conditions of this class are not so sound and majority of the reelers/spinners are wage earners. Therefore they do not have the necessary capital to do business on their own. Since the financial position of the reelers are poor, therefore except some, most of the reelers do not have working capital to purchase cocoons. Those who have link with master weaver and traders obtain wages out of their reeling jobs. Thus shortage of capital for purchase of raw material is one of the biggest hurdles.

ii) **Lack of uniformity**: It is seen from our study that the quality of yarn produced in case of both Eri and Muga, is not uniform which affects the quality of fabrics.

iii) **Use of traditional tools**: Since the economic condition of most of the reelers is not sound, therefore they still rely on the traditional methods of production. Over dependence of Eri spinner and Muga reeler on traditional devices like ‘Takil’ and ‘Bhir’ respectively limits the possibility of product development and diversification. In addition to these, they are unable to produce as per the demand at times.

iv) **Small size of the production unit**: The production of Eri is not taken up as a full time activity and so production per spinner is much less than the desired level.

v) **Absence of quality parameters**: Absence of standardization of quality parameters and packaging of yarn is another problem in this sector.
vi) Absence of technological incentives: The technological facilities given to people involved in sericulture is mostly taken over by those not actually involved but sells it at a price to the real producer. So it is this class of middle men who get the benefit of the facilities/ implements given by CSB

vii) Unutilized use of existing infrastructure: - According to the Directorate of Sericulture, Government, of Assam, the existing reeling and spinning units which were established in the Goalpara and Kamrup district including Sualkuchi with the support of the State Government under different schemes are lying idle due to the lack of support system, linkages and trainings.

7.6. Problems of Fabric sector:

It is the sector which produces the final product of silk industry i.e. ‘fabric’. Weaver is the most powerful person in this sector. There are two types of weavers

1) Individual weaver

2) Commercial weaver.

Commercial weavers again can be

a) General Weaver

b) Master Weaver

Master Weaver is the weaver under whom the general weaver works. ‘The weaving job is mainly done on frame type shuttle handlooms and this is suited for
production of plain fabrics and a good number of weavers possess additional looms with jacquard/dobby for production of design fabric' (Saikia, 2011).

It is seen in our study area specially Sualkuchi and Palasbari - Bijoy nagar of Kamrup district, that there is a shortage of proper space for weaving and the weaving condition of the said area is also unhygienic. Generally, master weavers hire expert weavers from different places. The hired weavers are usually wage earners. Majority of hired weavers are tribal women. But it is also revealed from our study that now, BTAD administration has adopted new rules that nobody can go to Sualkuchi for working in the weaving sector. They will be given proper incentives to work independently as a commercial weaver in their own place by the BTAD administration. As a result today in the production of Eri, BTAD occupies a prestigious position in the world market. It has affected the fabric sector in Sualkuchi because there is a shortage of the skilled labour in Sualkuchi. This had led to a decline in the glorious position occupied by Sualkuchi to a great extent. The master weaver is seen to exploit the hired weavers. Not only are they financially exploited, but the living conditions of the hired weavers are also un-healthy and un-hygienic. Another reason for decreasing trend for Sualkuchi fabric sector is that most of the master weavers have not been able to expand their business due to lack of sufficient fixed as well as working capital. In addition to these, most of the hired weavers have opened new weaving centers independently outside Sualkuchi.

Following are the important problems facing the fabric sector.
i) **Lack of skilled labour:** There is a scarcity of skilled workers in the weaving centers. Shortage of skilled workforce affects quality and standard of the fabrics. Unskilled weavers cannot produce fabric of good quality.

ii) **Migration of skilled weavers:** Another problem of this sector is the migration of the skilled labourers at frequent interval. Since skilled hired weavers have a great demand for the weaving centre therefore, if they are paid slightly higher wage than the existing wage at another place, they quickly shift from one master weaver to another.

iii) **Inappropriate as exportable item:** Since till today weavers rely on traditional looms, therefore many items produced are not appropriate as exportable items. Continued use of traditional looms of narrow width is not suitable for production of exportable yarn. Again there is also absence of facilitation cell/centers to adopt appropriate technologies for quality products.

iv) **Shortage of fixed and working capital:** Due to the shortage of fixed and working capital, of the master weaver, weaving units are not modernized. As a result there is absence of processing and finishing facilities. Also there is poor credit flow to the weaving centers. If the skilled hired weaver wants to take credit from banks to establish their independent weaving centers, then also the process of taking credit from the bank is so complicated that uneducated weavers are unable to cope with these hassles. As a result, credit flow is poor to this sector.
v) **Absence of feedback mechanism:** There is no mechanism to collect feedback on market factors like designs, quality, price, product and the perspective of buyers.

vi) **Lack of market structure:** The market structure of finished products of silk industry is not organized. It is found in the study that lack of marketing approach, quality maintenance, packaging and production, are the main problems of this sector. Since there is no scientific and systematic method of price determination of fabrics, therefore, arbitrary pricing does not commensurate with quality, designs and type of products.

vii) **Absence of designs:** Since the weaving sector of silk industry is not modernized till now, therefore fabric producer cannot fulfill the taste and preferences of modern consumers. There is a complete absence of linkage with local as well as outside designs.

viii) **Dependent on Government programmes:** It is seen in the study area specially in Sualkuchi, that most of the people are too much dependent on Government aided-programmes and support. They involve in different silk related activities, most of which are supported by Government sponsored schemes and they devote little time to earn optimum price of their product. Again, the new generation is not keen on this occupation and they have started such type of business which gives quick and easy money. This has adversely affected on the gorgeous silk industry of Sualkuchi.
From the above discussion, we find that the silk industry in Assam faces a number of problems in each sector—seed, rearing, cocoon, yarn and fabric. The problems identified in the pilot survey were given to 200 sample farmers. They were asked to rank these according to their importance in the study area. These problems were ranked following Garret ranking method. The results obtained are shown in the following table 7.1.

**Table 7.1: Ranking of problems faced by sericulturists**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL No</th>
<th>Problems</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Climatic disturbances</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Shortage of skill workers</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pests and diseases</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fluctuations of cocoon prices</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Non availability of laying</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lack of investment</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Shortage of rearing equipments</td>
<td>6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Exploitation by middlemen</td>
<td>7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Transportation problem</td>
<td>8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Shortage of pesticides</td>
<td>9th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Computed from Field Data

The table 7.1 indicates that among the different problems faced by the people practicing sericulture, climatic disturbances has got the topmost rank. This is because silk worm rearing is a very delicate activity and mainly depends on environmental condition. Again, shortage of skill workers is seen in the second
position. From this study it reveals that people those who are engaged in sericulture activities are mostly uneducated old people. Therefore they are not much more interested to undergo training to acquire advanced skills of sericulture. As a result, till date sericulture sector has been suffering from shortage of skilled workers. In the above table, pests and diseases is found in the third rank. As mentioned earlier, sericulture sector is continuing with large numbers of uneducated unskilled workers. Hence, these peoples are not acquainted with the scientific use of pesticide and control of diseases. That is why it is another serious problem for the sericulturists. Fluctuations of cocoon prices are the next serious problem faced by the people of the study area. Since there is no regulated price mechanism for cocoon market, therefore its price is always fluctuates. Similarly, non availability of laying, lack of investment, shortage of rearing equipments, exploitation by middlemen, transportation problem, shortage of pesticides are ranked as fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth & tenth problem respectively. Above mentioned problems has been identified as the serious problems by the people practicing sericulture in the study area. All these problems hinder the promotion of sericulture in the study area.

7.7. Reasons for non-adoption of sericulture:

As already shown in Chapter 4, sericulture has a large potential for employment generation, It also leads to empowerment of rural women, as shown in Chapter 5. However, sericulture as an industry has not developed to the desired/ expected level, in spite of it being a traditional industry in Assam. It is also seen during the
course of the study that the young educated generation is not keen to enter into this occupation and are more attracted to those avenues which gives them quick and assured returns

The present study tried to identify the reasons why people are not keen on adopting sericulture as an occupation. The result based on a sample of (100) respondents is shown in the following table 7.2.

Table 7.2: Problems for non-adoption of sericulture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl no</th>
<th>Problems</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lack of insurance</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fear of disease</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lack of capital</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Non availability of laying in right time</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lack of knowledge about disinfection measure</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lack of land for construction of rearing house</td>
<td>6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Shortage of skill labour</td>
<td>7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Non-availability of host plan for Muga and Eri</td>
<td>8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Non-availability of rearing equipment</td>
<td>9th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lack of proper market</td>
<td>10th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Computed from Field Data

It is seen from the above table 7.2 that among the various reasons for non adoption of sericulture in the sample cluster of Eri and Muga of Goalpara and Kamrup districts, the top most difficulty is the absence of insurance. Due to the uncertainty of returns, most of the people give up sericulture although they have been
engaged in sericulture as their prime occupation. Since silk worms rearing are affected by the various diseases, therefore fear of diseases is another problem for non-adaption of sericulture in the study area. Again it is known that most of the sericulturists are poor tribal people of the rural areas. Therefore, lack of capital has been identified as another reason for non-adoption of sericulture in the study area. Similarly non availability of laying in right time, lack of knowledge about disinfection measure, lack of land for construction of rearing house, shortage of skill labour, non-availability of host plan for Muga and Eri, non-availability of rearing equipment, lack of proper market are some of the other problems, because of which sericulture is not taken up as a prime activity.

7.8. Conclusion:

Assam possesses good growth potential for sericulture development. For rapid and speedy growth of sericulture, a prospective plan is required. It is very difficult for rapid development of Muga and Eri sectors in Assam unless deterrents and bottlenecks for Muga and Eri development are tackled by appropriate actions.

The main limitation for speedy growth from the point of view of sericulturists in the study area are absence of self-sufficiency in seed production, absence of good marketing, infrastructure, weak and negligible size of silk reeling sector, inadequate credit facilities, environmental and climatic hazards. To survive, sericulturists, in the study area, require a minimum floor price for the cocoons and stable price level free from vibrant/quick fluctuations.
Besides these, speedy development of sericulture in the study area also requires integrated programme of development to examine the weak points in the chain of sericulture activities and to strengthen the base of development. Again, the state has to play a vital role to develop the infrastructure and also should monitor why the existing infrastructure has not been fully utilized.

If the state regulates the market structure then it will be very helpful for the sericulturists. Actually, there is a complete absence of organized market structure. If the marketing infrastructure is developed and reeling industry is strengthened, the sericulturists can hope for a better and stable price for their cocoons in the local market.

Absence of institutional finance for fixed capital and crop for working capital is the pre-requisite for sericulture. This is the major problem in the weaving sector of the study area. Only 20% of the respondents were avail seen to institutional finance.

Feeding of silkworm is another problem. Especially in case of Eri there is no systematic plantation. There is always a shortage of leaf for Eri silkworm. Thus this problem should be tackled by adopting proper method of feedings the silkworms.

Last but not least, environmental or climatic conditions, is a big hurdle for the spread of Muga and Eri sector development in the study area. This can be
overcome to a large extent, by adopting indoor rearing of Muga and using the implements/t tools provided by the CSB.

Reference:


