CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS
The present study is carried out to understand while the skilled artisans like silk weavers have to migrate to urban centres and to understand the statistics of the migrants and the consequences of rural urban migration. The study is carried out in the context of immigrant silk weavers of Dharmavaram town, a major silk production centre in India.

The objectives of the study are:

1. To examine the demographic characteristics of the immigrant silk weavers at the time of their migration with reference to the age, marital status, and accompanied personal.

2. To understand the reasons for migration.

3. To analyse the changes in occupational status, number of working hours, and duration of employment, changes in income levels as a consequence of rural to urban migration.

4. To portray the socio-economic profile of the immigrant silk weavers in an urban setting; and

5. To understand changes perceived in levels of living and a sense of achievement as a consequence of rural to urban migration by the immigrant silk weavers.
Of the total estimated 15,527 weavers households in Dharmavaram town 2,395 weaver households were estimated to be settled only after the year 1981 and these settlers were considered as immigrants. The immigrants are all involved in silk weaving and are a homogenous as far as vocational pursuit is concerned. And hence a representative sample of 100 households have been selected randomly for the present study.

The analysis were carried out with reference to caste background, demographic profile, pre and post migration status in relation to occupation, duration of employment income levels, etc.

MAJOR FINDINGS:

The major findings are as follows: 70 per cent of the immigrant silk weavers under the study were found to be members of weavers caste and they represent 4 sub-castes viz., Padmasale-16; Pattusale-2; Devanga-3; Thogata-49; 22 per cent of the respondents represent non-weaving backward caste like Kuruba, Boya, Golla, Dudekula, Gandla, Katika, whose caste occupation is other than weaving. 7 respondents represent forward caste like Kapu, Kamma, Baliza whose traditional callings is cultivation. One respondent represents scheduled caste.
Thus the immigrant silk weavers found to be representing diverse social background and silk weaving in an urban centre has not remain an exclusive domain of weavers community.

The age at a time of migration reveals the immigrant silk weavers have migrated at all age groups from the age of 10 to more than 45 years age indicating for skilled workers are the aspirants of skilled workers age holds no constraint.

The marital status and accompanying family members are not detrimental to rural to urban migration the case of skilled artisans. By and large the literature shows that majority of the migrants move individually without accompanying family members and are generally unmarried, and are drawn from young adult age groups. However, this is found to be irrelevant in the case of skilled artisans and those aspirant became skilled artisans.

The reasons for migration were found to be push and pull factors. The lack of employment and carrier prospects education and entertainment facilities and lack of professional environment for silk weaving at villages were found to be push factors. The conducive
professional environment, infrastructural facilities for education, entertainment, credit, marketing and transport facilities at Dharmavaram town found to be the pull factors.

The consequences of rural to urban migration indicates that such migration results in improvement and better levels of living, employment status and income levels in the case of skilled artisans our data shows that the migration as enabled the respondents to improve their occupation status from labour weavers to independent weavers (79 per cent) and occupational mobility in the case of (21 per cent) of the respondents.

Similarly the duration of employment and duration of working hours also have enlarged as a consequence of migration. The average number of days of employment prior to migration is found to be 17.38 days in a month and the same of the after migration is found to be 26.12 days per month. Similarly the average number of working hours per day before migration is found to be 9.56 hours and the same after the migration is found to be 10.96 hours.

Majority of the respondents were found to be either the below of the poverty line or at the border of the poverty line prior to their migration. After
migration, our data shows that majority have were earning income well above the poverty line. The average income of the respondents per month prior to migration is found to be ₹. 393 and same after migration is found to be ₹. 704.

The socio-economic status of the immigrant silk weavers revealed that all of them are Hindus representing all caste groups and not necessarily limited to weavers community and all of them are male. They represent in a majority productive age group (20 to 40 years). Majority of them are literate and earn an income above the poverty line. Their levels of indebtedness is found to be low (less than ₹. 4000 per annum) and is related to investment purpose. The immigrant silk weavers have a proud sense of achievement and a perception of satisfactory levels of living.

CONCLUSIONS:

On the strength of the above findings the following conclusions may be drawn. It is a fact that the forces such as industrialisation, urbanisation, have disturbed the subsistence oriented economy the villages self sufficient and self-reliance. These forces as a result, several of the artisan groups have
lost their functional place in the rural economic structure leading to abandonment of their callings. Yet the weavers practicing silk weaving could survive the onslaught of these forces and remain in their profession due to the peculiar demand for silk fabrics.

In the recent years these silk weavers were found to be migrating to urban centre like Dharmavaram a major silk production centre in large numbers. On the strength of our data and findings we attempted answer this curious phenomenon. Because the migrants have continued silk weaving even after their migration.

On the strength of our findings our first conclusion is that the skill artisans unlike the other artisans would not abandon their traditional calling particularly when there is demand for their products.

Our second conclusion is that the migrant skill artisans are aspirants of skill artisan work define the general characteristics of migrants.

Our third conclusion is that the push and pull factors in the form of conducive professional environment for skilled workers is a major determinant of migration.
Fourth conclusion is that by and large the rural urban migration results positive consequences in the case of skilled artisans.

Our last conclusion is that in view of the above the policy with regard to handloom weavers particularly the silk weaver needs to be revised and reviewed while emphasis on village industries is admirable it must be born in mind that without the conducive professional environment and competitive infrastructure the tradition based skilled artisans will not be able to continue in their traditional callings.